

Rubber plan: Watch it grow!

Supervisors' committee agrees to expand condom distribution in San Francisco.

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Roberta's back...

... and the SF Chamber of Commerce's got her.

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Future shock!

D'Arcy Drollinger's rock musical 'Suburbia 3000.'

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 12 • 20 March 1997

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 25 years

AB101 passes out of committee

Despite ugly opposition by fundies

by Marghe Covino, B.A.R.
Capitol correspondent

The hearing room in Sacramento for the Assembly Committee on Higher Education was packed with both gays and anti-gays Tuesday, March 18. Traditional Values Coalition's Lou Sheldon in his ubiquitous blue suit looked thin and aging as he worked the room. Whispering here, shaking hands there, head aggressively thrust forward, eyes darting, swaying foot to foot and rocking back and forth, he was clearly restless for the battle to begin.

The hearing on the proposed Assembly Bill 101, which would add the words "sexual orientation" to already existing laws against discrimination in schools and colleges, had opened the door for outrageous interpretations of the meaning of "sexual orientation" ("Did you know that it is in case law that bestiality is a sexual orientation?") as well as other rumors that swept the halls and titillated Concerned Women for America members the previous day. On Tuesday, some CWA members were in the committee room, commandeering seats, shoes off, feet up on the kickboards of the seats in front, waiting for the show.

It was almost an hour and a half later that lesbian Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl arrived, looking as cool as her "ice-cream" white suit. By that time, Committee Chair Ted Lampert, D-Palo Alto, had the procedure well in hand. No circus today. The procedure was clear: the bill author/sponsor presents; two proponents have 15 minutes to outline the need for the bill; other supporters come



Not a pretty picture: Lou Sheldon.

to the microphone, identify themselves and their organizations, and state their support; committee members ask questions, proponents or author answer; and then the vote.

Kuehl was on top of her game as she fielded questions on ROTC, affirmative action, and school facilities use. She agreed to authors' amendments on the spot, worked with her colleagues, impressed them with her intellect, charmed them with her openness, and brooked no nonsense.

Define sexual orientation

At least 15 organizations supported AB101, ranging from the California State

page 22 ►

Feds arrest, indict Jerry Coletti

by Dennis Conkin

Former Imperial Court Emperor XVII Jerry Coletti remains in federal police custody following his arrest Monday, March 17 and indictment by a federal grand jury for the Northern District of California on ten counts of mail fraud, 18 counts of false claims against the United States, and two claims of conspiracy.

Coletti pleaded not guilty to the charges at his arraignment the same day, and was ordered to appear for a bail hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Maxine Chesney on March 19.

Coletti had been under investigation since mid-1994 for filing false claims for state and federal tax refunds. U.S. Attorney Nandor Vadas told the Bay Area Reporter.

According to the unsealed federal indictment, Coletti "by scheme and artifice" obtained the social security numbers of a variety of men "who were HIV-positive," used their names to prepare false W-2 wage and

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At the pinnacle: Jerry Coletti (center) during his run for emperor in 1989.



Rick Gerhardt

Diana Parker (right) says her new boss (left) is going to surprise people.

The lesbian behind City Hall's SWM: Meet Diana Parker

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco's newest supervisor, Gavin Newsom, will probably surprise people, says his openly lesbian aide, Diana Parker. Newsom has been on the job for just over a month now, and in an interview March 12 with the Bay Area Reporter, Parker said it wasn't her sexual orientation that helped her get the job assisting the city's only straight white male member of the board; it was her qualifications and experience.

Parker is no stranger to local politics. Most recently, she worked for four years in Willie Brown's San Francisco office, when he was assembly speaker. After he left the as-

sembly and became mayor, Parker toyed with the idea of going to work in the private sector. Then in early February, Newsom was appointed to the board by Brown to replace Kevin Shelley, who was elected to the state Assembly last November.

When Parker worked in Brown's district office, she dealt with members of the public on a variety of issues and served as a liaison to the gay community. She plans to use those same skills working for Newsom. When she applied for the job, part of the process involved dealing with hypothetical political situations that may arise. A sense of humor and her historical knowledge of many issues are also strengths she brings to the job.

Parker, who grew up on the Peninsula, got her start in politics in an unusual way: she saw an item in one of Herb Caen's columns about how Wendy Nelder, former president of the board of supervisors, had fired yet another aide.

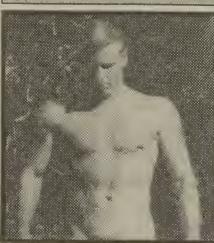
"So I wrote her a letter, and she hired me," Parker said, adding that she, too, resigned the post about eight months later. A subsequent job led her to become involved

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MCC to worship at unconstitutional cross

by Dennis Conkin

The Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco has stepped into the fray over the separation of church and state, with a surprise announcement that it will hold an Easter Eve vigil at the foot of the 103-foot cross on Mt. Davidson.

The 6:30 p.m. service on Saturday, March 29 will include holy communion and the "dramatic lighting" of the edifice in the colors of the rainbow, according to The Reverend Jim Mitulski, pastor of the Eureka Street lesbian and gay congregation.

Sunrise Easter services are routinely held atop Mt. Davidson, and are scheduled for 5 a.m. on Sunday, March 30. That service is not under MCC's auspices.

Mitulski said that the church is "reclaiming" the location to tell the "resurrection story" of its membership, in an era of renewed hope about promising AIDS treatments.

"There's really an electricity in our church right now, even though I know it's not the whole story for everyone," Mitulski said.

The once-illuminated structure on Mt. Davidson has been dark since a 1990 lawsuit argued the presence of a religious symbol on public land violated California and federal constitutional protections separating church and state.

A Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower court ruling that the statue's presence on public land was unconstitutional. On Monday, March 17, the U.S. Supreme Court denied a writ of certiorari, and declined to hear an appeal of the Appeal Court ruling.

Boosters of the Mt. Davidson cross say they will mount an effort to transfer the city property to a private group to prevent the structure's demolition, a move that could place the controversy before voters in the form of a ballot measure.

Critics differ strongly with Mitulski's support of the site.

"Let's not lose sight of the fact that Christians in the gay community are just that: Christians in



K. Bradley Hudson

Rev. Jim Mitulski: "There's really an electricity in our church right now."

lot proposition.

In January, the San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board voted to preserve the cross as a historical landmark, a move that must be approved by the Planning Commission and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Love and not hate

Although Mitulski told the Bay Area Reporter that MCC's use of the location was unrelated to the controversy, he said he supported the presence of religious symbols on public property.

"For too long, political and religious organizations have used the cross as an instrument of oppression and not liberation. This event will be an opportunity for all people to come together beneath the cross in a spirit of love and not hate," Mitulski said.

Critics differ strongly with Mitulski's support of the site.

"Let's not lose sight of the fact that Christians in the gay community are just that: Christians in

the gay community. The Jewish community in the lesbian and gay community is just as strong, and we are in favor of the separation of church and state," said Harvey Milk Democratic Club member Carole Stuart.

"We don't object to the public display of religious symbols – in fact, we would define those uses as constitutionally protected," said long-time civil rights activist and openly gay attorney Tom Steel, who represents the plaintiffs who sued to remove the symbol. "We object to the city owning and displaying a religious symbol such as a cross."

The incident is the latest to draw a flurry of media attention to Mitulski and the MCC congregation.

Shortly after California Attorney General Dan Lungren ordered the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club raided last August, Mitulski gained national media prominence when, in a one-time event, he distributed high-grade marijuana to people with AIDS from the church's altar. ▼

Cable Cars roll out Sat.

by Dennis Conkin

The 23rd annual gala Cable Car Awards and Show will be held on Saturday, March 22 at 8 p.m. at the Gift Center Pavilion, located at 8th and Brannan Streets.

The evening will feature a variety of entertainers including Veronica Klaus, the Jets Dance Troupe, Scott Capurro, DJ Page Hodel, and Ken McPherson of Live 105. MCs are Dana Atkins, formerly of Beach Blanket Babylon, and television station owner Jim Gabbert of KOFY-TV-20.

Founded by the late Bob Cramer, the Cable Car Awards honor a variety of lesbian and gay community members and diverse service groups for their contributions to the community or for their anniversaries.

Nominees are selected for more than two dozen categories that range from sporting and theatre awards to Outstanding Community Event, Entertainer of the Year, and Outstanding Fundraiser. The winners of those awards are selected by general public vote.

Awards for outstanding journalism in news, criticism, and fea-

tures are also given, but the media awards – with the exception of Columnist of the Year – are issued by a panel of media judges.

The annual Cable Car event also bestows Awards of Merit, the Harvey Milk Community Service Award, and the Rikki Streicher Woman of the Year Award.

Single standing room tickets are \$15 per person, but tables for ten are still available for \$250-\$750 dollars. ▼

For more information, contact 522-6810 or e-mail tickets@cablecar.org.

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**An open letter to Sutter/CHS Health Plan
and Dr. Martin Brotman, CEO, California Pacific Medical Center
from community supporters of home health care**

What's going on at Visiting Nurses and Hospice?

Every day, VNH nurses, social workers, home health care workers and others visit and care for thousands of homebound patients—people with AIDS, the frail and elderly, the chronically and terminally ill.

Formerly an independent non-profit, VNH is now a division of California Pacific Medical Center, in turn a subsidiary of Sutter/CHS.

Here's what's happened since Sutter, a \$2.5 billion corporation, has taken over:
A decline in patient care time, threatened loss of federal funding, a closed-door policy allowing no employee input, and a heavy-handed management attempt to deny employees union representation.

But despite the imperatives of managed care, the talented and dedicated VNH employees continue to do their job with a deep sense of mission.

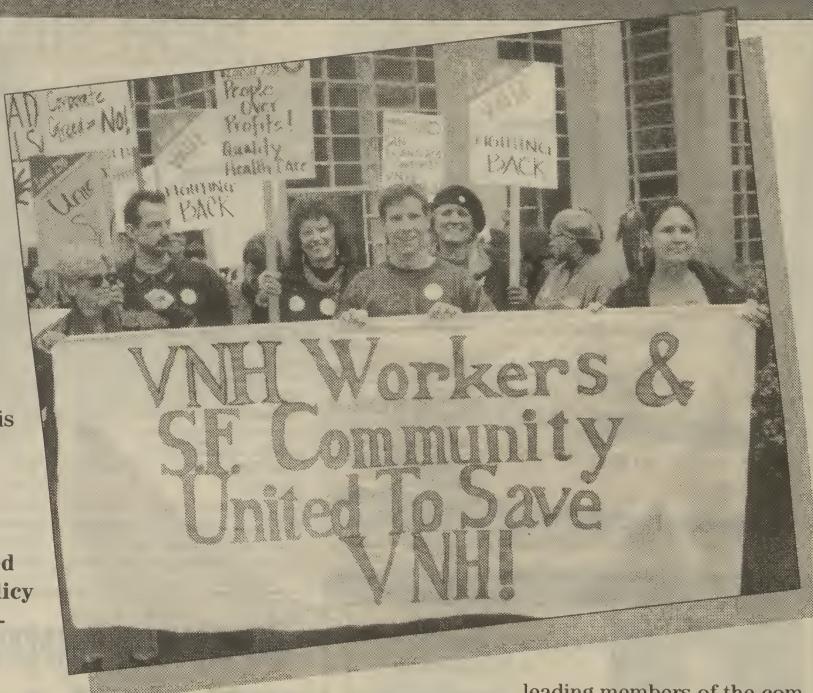
Our Solution:

Recognize our Community

Establish a community/labor task force to help maintain and enhance the quality of care.

The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community

has a high stake in the successful functioning of VNH. We need VNH to continue to be a productive, smoothly-running provider of quality care. That can't happen unless VNH employees are treated with the respect they deserve. It can't happen unless the community served by VNH has a role in determining how care is delivered.



Our Solution:

Recognize Visiting Nurses and Hospice Employees

Recognize and negotiate with the unions your employees have chosen.

An overwhelming majority of VNH employees have voted in an election supervised by

leading members of the community—to be represented by Service Employees International Union, Locals 250 and 790. They feel that this is the best way to insure that their voice will be heard, that their rights will be protected, and that quality patient care will be preserved. Yet, VNH/CPMC/Sutter has refused to recognize their employees' choice and negotiate a contract with their unions, Local 250 and Local 790, Service Employees International Union.

Support VNH workers: It's a matter of life and death

Tom Ammiano
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Tom Calvanese
PWA, Ryan White Care Council

Chris Collins
Executive Board, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Gwenn Craig
Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA)

Denise D'Anne
Recording Secretary, Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club

Larry Dow
Harvey Milk L/G/B Democratic Club

John Dunbar

Harvey Milk L/G/B Democratic Club

Eileen Hansen

Public Policy Director, AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Ron Hypolite
Co-chair, LGADDA

Frederick Hobson
PWA, Governing Board, SF Health Authority

Victor Marquez
Executive Director, La Raza Centro Legal

Pat Norman

Executive Director, Institute for Community Health Outreach, San Francisco Police Commission

Alonzo Reese
LGADDA

Criss Romero
Vice President, Harvey Milk L/G/B Democratic Club

Maggie Rubenstein
RN, MFCC, Ph.D

Jeff Sheehy
President, Harvey Milk L/G/B Democratic Club

Andrea Shorter
San Francisco Community College Board

Rex Spray
AIDS Services Accountability Project

Howard Wallace
Pride at Work, Harvey Milk L/G/B Democratic Club

Lawrence Wong
San Francisco Community College Board

Titles listed for purposes of identification only

Call VNH—You can call Dr. Martin Brotman, CEO, at 415/923-3575 and let him know that you support VNH workers' decision to join a union and negotiate a fair contract.

Call us—If you have a personal story to tell about the care you, your partners, friends or family have received from Visiting Nurses and Hospice, please call us at VNH UNITED! at 415/284-7513.

SFPD promotes dyke cop

by Dennis Conkin

An openly lesbian San Francisco Police Department sergeant has received a major earned-promotion in rank, and will leave the Special Investigation Division that handles hate crime investigations to join the command staff of Mission Station.

Marlene Ottone, 42, will become a watch commander at Mission Station on Sunday, March 23, and will be officially sworn in as a San Francisco police lieutenant on April 2 at an 11 a.m. ceremony at Herbst Theatre.

Ottone, who was raised in Monterey County, is a 17-year veteran and was assigned to SID for four years. Prior to her SID assignment, she was assigned to the patrol, communications, and internal affairs divisions of the department.

"I'm pleased as punch that she's been promoted," client advocate Jennifer Rakowski of Community United Against Violence



Marlene Ottone

told the Bay Area Reporter. "But we're really going to miss her in the hate crimes unit."

Ottone was the police investigator assigned two recent high-profile hate crimes: a Church Street pit bull and multiple-assailant attack on two gay men last December, and the infamous Buena Vista Park basher who had

sex with his victims and then attacked them if they resisted robbery. She was responsible for the arrest of Jeffrey March as the suspected perpetrator of the Buena Vista Park crimes.

Ottone told the Bay Area Reporter that her SID assignment was "tremendously rewarding," and saluted her colleagues in the division for their dedication.

She said that law enforcement response to hate crimes has changed over the last decade and a half, as society's response to hate violence has changed.

"The police department has a done a great deal to educate officers about hate crimes," Ottone said.

And, according to Supervisor Susan Leal, police district command staff who have expertise in hate violence issues benefit not just the lesbian and gay community, but the entire city.

Ottone's experience can only bring a "broad and important perspective" to Mission Station, Leal said. ▼

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Brando appearance on Castro will block traffic Thursday

by Dennis Conkin

Castro Street will be a celebrity watcher's dream – but a major traffic headache – this Thursday, March 20 because of a private 25th Anniversary showing of *The Godfather* at the Castro Theatre.

The preview, attended by the entire cast of the movie, including

Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, James Caan, Robert Duvall, and Talia Shire, begins at 7:30 p.m. and is expected to draw "large crowds," according to a notice given to Castro District merchants.

The northbound lane of Castro Street will be closed from 5:30-10:30 p.m., and Muni buses will be rerouted when necessary.

No parking signs will be posted

on the west side of Castro Street from 18th Street to Market from 4 p.m. to midnight.

Guests attending the premiere will be accessing Castro Street via 18th Street, and will have to show identification to enter the valet parking area.

According to the notice to merchants, parking control officers will be onsite to help with traffic. ▼



Rudy Galindo

Galindo at San Jose library Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

Openly gay U.S. National and World Ice Skating Champion

Rudy Galindo will be appearing at the Dr. King Main Library in San Jose on Saturday, March 22 at a benefit book signing and fundraiser for Biblioteca Latinoamericana, the South Bay's premiere collection of Spanish language and bilingual materials, with an emphasis on Latin American culture and history.

Plans have been approved and funds have been set aside to build a new home for the library. The Galindo benefit initiates the next step, which is to build a fund to purchase additional books and other materials to fill the 16,744 square-foot facility.

Copies of Galindo's just-released book will be available for purchase and signing at the conclusion of the program. Light refreshments will be served. ▼

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APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 15, 1997

Galindo will be appearing from 1-3 p.m. The Dr. King Main Library is located at 180 W. San Carlos Street, between South Market and Almaden Blvd. Light rail users can exit at the San Jose Convention Center stop. Partial parking validation is also available at the convention center garage. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Academy of Friends give good Dreams this Mon.

by Dennis Conkin

The 17th annual Academy of Friends Oscar Night Gala fundraiser to benefit Bay Area AIDS service groups will be held this Monday, March 24 at Fort Mason's Festival Pavilion, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

This year's "Boulevard of Dreams" theme will feature a Hollywood glamour motif with klieg-lights, antique cars, and a flower-laden entrance - the size of a football field, no less - replete with ornate columns, antique cars, and models posing as statues.

Inside the pavilion, patrons will be treated to excellent gourmet cuisine, desserts, and beverages provided by more than 60 local restaurants, wineries, and other venues, and can watch the Academy Awards from huge projection screens and video monitors installed throughout the party. Dancing starts as soon as



Balloonacy at last year's Academy of Friends Oscar™ Night Gala.

Jane Philomen Cleland

the telecast.

The premiere annual AIDS fundraiser has garnered more than \$1.5 million for cash-strapped AIDS organizations since its modest beginnings in 1980 as a

private Oscar night party hosted by Kile Ozier. Last year's event drew 2,500 partygoers.

Beneficiaries of this year's events are Continuum HIV Services, Larkin Street Youth Center, STOP AIDS Project, Maitri AIDS Hospice, the San Mateo County AIDS Program, Project Inform, Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, and the AIDS Project of the East Bay. ▼

Tickets are available for the gala event at \$125 in advance and \$150 at the door. For more information, contact the Academy at 252-0713.

'Evening with the Stars' Oscar party benefits Sonoma County AIDS Foundation -

by Cynthia Laird

Last year's Sonoma County "Friends of the Oscars" gala proved that the excitement of the Oscars reaches far beyond Hollywood and New York, all the way to Sonoma County. Tables are going fast for this year's third annual "An Evening with the Stars" Sonoma County AIDS Foundation benefit this Monday, March 24 in Santa Rosa.

Organizer John Voyles said many local movers and shakers in Sonoma County will be in attendance to watch the Academy Awards telecast unfold on giant screens while raising funds for the Sonoma County AIDS Foundation.

Over 300 people attended last year's event, and enjoyed exquisite foods, fine wines, elegant desserts, and the camaraderie.

Celebrants will enjoy the best

that Sonoma County wine makers and caterers can provide. Additionally, there will be lavish presentations, and people can participate in the exciting live auction, a highlight of last year's event.

"One hundred percent of the ticket proceeds go to HIV/AIDS services in Sonoma County," Voyles said. "Invite your friends to join your table. And if you are alone, it won't be for long. An 'Evening with the Stars' is the place to be to watch this once-a-year event. Get out your glittery attire and shine up your dancing shoes. This will be a night to remember."

Tickets are \$75 per person. ▼

The gala starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Jockey Club, located at 1350 Bennett Valley Road in Santa Rosa. For tickets or more information, call (707) 544-1215.

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PASSION SUNDAY, March 23
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HOLY THURSDAY, March 27
Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, March 28
Stations of the Cross - 12:00 noon
The Lord's Passion - 1:00 and 7:30 PM

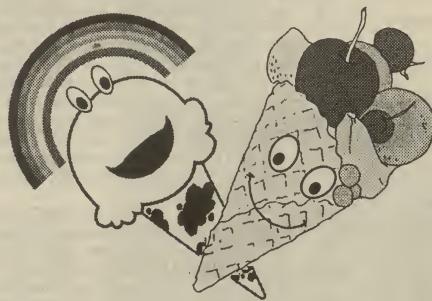
HOLY SATURDAY, March 29
The Easter Vigil - 7:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY, March 30
Masses - 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM



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Spring in our steps

Early Thursday morning, just about the time the first delivery trucks put this issue of the *Bay Area Reporter* in the racks, spring will ... uh, spring.

And it looks like a good one so far. So far this week, in Sacramento, perennial ass Lou Sheldon and his minions failed in their attempt to damage some important pro-gay legislation in the Assembly. That is especially good news considering how much better organized they were, compared with the gay community, and considering how ugly they got. The tone of their arguments has always been nasty, but this time — perhaps because it was so awful — they wound up losing the kind of skirmish they have won too often in the past.

Meanwhile, the last bill modeled on Colorado's Amendment 2 is being heard by a Cincinnati court that has been specifically ordered to look at it in light of the Supreme Court's ruling against the anti-gay Colorado law. If they do as they are ordered, they cannot allow the law to stand, and Issue 3 will join Amendment 2 on the dungheaf of history.

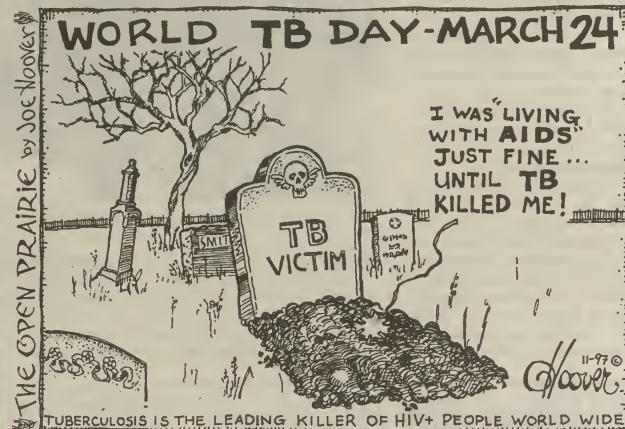
It's not too hard to remember when those laws, and the "citizens alliances" that pushed them, looked nearly unstoppable, and it's good to see gays advancing in their struggle for equal rights after many losses.

Nevertheless — does anyone need reminding? — not all our battles are won. AIDS is still not won, and the fight against AIDS profiteering is not won. There are still a hundred greedy examples of that: people

who invent fake charities; people who bilk real ones; and pharmaceutical companies.

That's why we send best wishes with the Golden Gate activists taking part in this week's tenth anniversary commemoration of ACT UP's first historic shut-down of Wall Street. Then, as now, the focus is on the heinous profiteering of some drug manufacturers. We don't forget

— now that the fourth protease inhibitor has come on the market, priced 28 percent higher than Crixivan — how much credit those activists deserve for those drugs. They took part in the studies, learned their homework and lobbied the FDA, and now they're fighting — now they're still fighting — to keep the costs down. Action, like spring, equals life. Enjoy them. ▼

Editorial

'Safer sex' and the growing HIV-positive population

by Tim Carroll, Ph.D.

The good news from the front is that AIDS-related deaths are declining for the first since the epidemic began. The even better news is that the current decrease in deaths is a reflection of combination nucleoside therapy only. It does not yet include protease inhibitor "cocktail" therapy, which is too recent to document. When protease inhibitor use becomes more mainstream, an even more dramatic decline in AIDS-related deaths is expected.

One of the most striking implications of such news is the upcoming shift in numbers between HIV-positive and HIV-negative populations in the gay community. In the past, it was assumed that the San Francisco gay male population was roughly split, half and half. However, assuming that a small proportion of HIV-negatives will continue to sero-convert per year, the current decline in AIDS-related deaths will lead to an ongoing increase in HIV-positives. The result for San Francisco will be the continued growth of a gay HIV-positive male population that may eventually dwarf the HIV-negative population.

Many AIDS service agencies, HMOs, and other healthcare providers during the last few years have changed their AIDS treatment focus from short-term crisis intervention, to long-term lifetime care. However, one area in which this shift in focus has not been reflected is in HIV prevention information and the current behavioral and educational campaigns for "safer sex." I have yet to see a forum, campaign, or well-reasoned and informed public discussion on safe sex issues that effectively addresses the specific needs of a steadily rising population of healthy, sexually active, HIV-positive men.

Too often in the past, safe sex messages have been muddled by a confusion in target audiences, positives and negatives, whose infection concerns are very different. For example, how often do you see articulated that the risk from re-transmission for HIV-positive couples is different in kind and quality than initial transmission for HIV-negatives? The result is that positives and negatives constantly find themselves rein-

terpreting safe sex messages according to their own status and the status of their partner(s). Along the way the authority of global safe sex messages are consistently eroded.

As the HIV-positive population grows, it is time to speak directly to positives' concerns with an updated safe sex program that doesn't confuse the specific needs of positives with those of negatives — one that doesn't need translation or interpretation. In addition, there needs to be an increasing awareness of the various stages of HIV progression and how risk factors change as the disease progresses. The STD concerns of someone who has a zero viral load and over 500 T-cells are much different from those of someone with a viral load in the hundreds of thousands and less than 100 T-cells.

But what exactly is "safer sex" between two HIV-positive partners? Often the response to questions concerning reinfection and drug cross-resistance is, "Well, there is little to no research being done in this area. There probably is some risk, but we really don't know enough about it yet or how high the risk is." Although all current research points in the direction that it is not a major risk, so don't do anything at all risky." The continued official message to HIV-positives, just like HIV-negatives, is to put a condom on anything that moves. However, many people with HIV see such a global injunction as more paranoid than scientific, and end up ignoring the guidelines altogether, or creating their own interpretations, of which the most common is "between HIV-positives it is okay to have unprotected anal sex but no ejaculation." Again, the authority of the safe sex message has been eroded.

The time has come for HIV-positive people to state that such a know-nothing response concerning reinfection by experts is no longer acceptable. Instead of positive gay men just folding up their tents and saying, "Okay, well, just let me know when you find something out," it is time to ask, "Why don't we know?"

The science is there. There is a mound of information about initial sero-conversion,

the mechanics of infection, antibody response, the genotyping of virus types and sub-types, mutation, viral suppression of other strains of HIV, ongoing virus levels in lymph nodes and blood (yet suspiciously very little about virus loads in semen). Yet why don't we know more about reinfection?

Why are there no research studies being done right now in our community?

Is it time for positives once again to confront the obvious fact: research is political and conservative (some would say sex-negative and homophobic). It has always been exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to get interest, support, and funding for research that would in any way increase the scope of gay sex.

However, with the upcoming increase in size of the HIV-positive population, the need for more specific information regarding re-transmission becomes more and more immediate. The future stability of the decrease in deaths due to AIDS could be in jeopardy due to the possibility of transmitted cross-resistance to such drugs as protease inhibitors.

If there is a major risk, it needs to be confronted now with hard facts, not best guesses, abstract theory, or anecdotal reporting. It also needs to be acknowledged that the current global safe sex injunctions for HIV-positive couples, which are based mostly on speculation, often fall on deaf ear within a positive population that has good reason to be skeptical of the medical establishment and that hears little to no concrete evidence of cross-resistance.

Until more information is available, there is little motivation to change behavior. The time has come for an increase in lobbying effort by AIDS agencies, healthcare providers, and activists to spur new medical research into this area. Cross-resistance prevention efforts until then, I fear, will be in vain. ▼

Guest Opinion

Tim Carroll, Ph.D. is a local psychotherapist. He appreciates your comments and can be reached via E-mail at timcarr@aol.com.

LETTERS

Bitter fruit

This is in response to a letter by M. Alan Farr, which was captioned as "Abused by the system." Feel free to caption this response as "Bitter fruit."

I am having a difficult time expressing the outrage promoted by M. Farr's letter. I can understand when an individual feels minimized by the system — I've been there. However, I doubt that M. Farr bothered with contacting the Patient Representative at the VA. I further doubt that he understood what was being told to him by "a physician and then confirmed by the charge nurse of that clinic..."

I have been a patient at the VA Ft. Miley Infectious Diseases (ID) Clinic (read AIDS) for 11 years. At no time have I been told or made to understand that "it is VA policy that people with HIV deserve to suffer, aggressive care of a person who is HIV+ is inappropriate use of medical resources, and it is the duty of the PWA to die as quickly as possible so as not to tie up the valuable time of the medical staff."

This man claims to quote a physician and the charge nurse of the ID clinic. I have not only been a patient at this clinic for 11 years, but have also been a volunteer for 5 years. As a person living with AIDS/HIV, I would not devote over 2,300 volunteer hours to a facility that treated people with HIV in this manner. In addition, I have come to know the charge nurse at the ID Clinic over the years. She is an example that many nurses look up to. She is a person who has committed many hours (including off-time hours) to the betterment of the HIV community. This is a person who suggested that the VA rent a booth at the Castro Street Fair (for the past two years) and helped staff that booth. This is a person who calls people on her time off to make sure they are doing well and asks if there is something more she can do to help. This person has become, over the years, a friend, not only a nurse I see at the clinic. This is a person who has gone out of her way to make sure that her patients are getting the very best of care at all times — whether they are being seen in her clinic or are an inpatient in the VA or another facility.

I sense a lot of anger in M. Farr. I am surprised that he turned that anger on the Veteran HIV community. Many times Veterans feel that they cannot come to the VA because of what they were told during their exit process, or because they feel that the VA is another military facility (it is not). The men and women who are HIV+ and have few or no other alternatives are not served well by his (pardon my political incorrectness) bitchiness. If he feels there is a real problem, then he should address it through the patient representative (whose name is readily available to him) and not through vilifying sincere, caring personnel at the VA or at General Hospital.

Any veteran who has any hesitation about starting their care at the VA hospital should feel free to call Voluntary Services. There are volunteers who are willing to help walk you through the system. I am not speaking for the VA, but for myself, who is one of those volunteers.

Jack
San Francisco

Stress and bitterness

In your Feb. 27 issue was a letter entitled, "Abused by the System." I don't wish to cause anyone problems dealing with HIV/AIDS.

I am an out-patient, occasionally an in-patient at VAMC, Ft. Miley hospital. By the statements made by the author of this article, he is obviously suffering much stress and perhaps bitterness.

To set the record straight, I'd like to say that all the staff at the I.D. clinic, including the head nurse, do not share the attitude the author expressed in his letter.

In addition, I'm also an AIDS volunteer. My experience with all the doctors and nurses has been of excellent care and concern. No one at Ft. Miley Hospital would ever make such statements expressed by the author of that letter.

We must always realize that dealing with the issue of HIV/AIDS causes much stress and bitterness for some patients. As a person in this situation, I can hope that others find help, both physical and mental, when the need arises. I know from experience that VAMC Ft. Miley Hospital does everything possible to provide physical, mental, and spiritual help to HIV/AIDS patients.

VAMC Ft. Miley Hospital is actively reaching out to our gay community, to veterans with HIV/AIDS. There is not a person involved who would express the terrible accusations in the letter.

Again, I hope the letter-writer and all others unsure of VAMC Ft. Miley Hospital will visit and check out the services. All care is geared to maximum service and a gay-friendly approach to our community.

R. Milazzo
San Francisco

Positive I.D.

I am responding to M. Alan Farr's allegations of the lack of care given him at the VAMC at Fort Miley. I can only speak of my own experience there.

As a gay man who has been HIV+ for longer than he cares to remember, I have been going to the Infectious Disease [I.D.] Clinic at the VAMC for over five years now. My experience there has been fully as positive as my HIV status. I have never found the I.D. Clinic staff (medical and clerical) to be anything other than interested, compassionate, and up-to-date. My medical needs have always been met with caring efficiency. Even when my medical problems have been other than HIV-related, the I.D. clinic nurses and doctors have quickly referred me to the appropriate departments, have run interference for me when necessary, and have taken a keen interest in the outcome of my treatment.

Since moving to San Francisco in 1980, I have had dealings with private physicians (through Blue Cross), with Kaiser Permanente, and with the VAMC. Without qualification, I would say that the care given at Ft. Miley tops all the other medical care I have gotten. I consider myself lucky to have the I.D. Clinic there for my primary medical care.

Jim Dewsnap
San Francisco

Up close and personal**Mailstrom**

I was quite shocked at reading of Mr. Farr's negative experiences with both S.F. General and Ft. Miley, but especially with the latter. As a close friend of many people with HIV/AIDS, I have seen "up close and personal" the facilities and care to be found at Ft. Miley. As one of the caregivers of a patient there, I never once had the impression that they were just waiting for him to die, or were withholding treatment. On the contrary, he received the best of care and was given every treatment possible in order to conquer the diseases that continually took hold of his immune-deficient body. As one of his caregivers, I was treated with utmost respect. In fact, there are wonderful, dedicated volunteers at Ft. Miley who are there to help people thru the bureaucratic maze which seems most daunting when we are ill. In addition, the social workers are nothing but concerned and caring and loving people. I'm sorry if Mr. Farr had a bad experience in seeking care, however I felt the need to express an alternate view, and I would not hesitate in recommending Ft. Miley to other veterans with HIV/AIDS in need of high quality, compassionate care.

Linda Wells
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Okay, we think we've got it.]

Survey says

I am writing in response to "Work? Out!" (2/27), which describes Jim Provenzano's experiences with Survey Methods Group, and one of the surveys being conducted there, the Multicultural Men's Health Study.

The MMHS is the first national men's health study of its kind. The information gathered will guide the future of medical and scientific research and address the healthcare needs of men in urban America.

The random calling of computer-generated phone numbers is effective and necessary when trying to reach men who may not consider themselves to be gay or bisexual, but do have sex with men. This survey gets input from those who might not be heard otherwise. The questions asked and their topics vary, though, pertaining to health issues. Sexual behavior is one of several categories which the survey touches on. This section will show how trends in sexual behavior are changing, and who could benefit the most from outreach and healthcare programs.

I have interviewed the MMHS since the beginning. I've found many of those called to be cooperative. Those not eligible would often wish me a sincere "Good luck," never sounding "sure to become homophobic," and those who responded were more than willing to answer the questions asked, saying they were "glad to help."

I would now like to share some of my experiences with Survey Methods Group. I have been employed by SMG since October of last year. I find it to be a very comfortable work environment. The chairs are thickly cushioned, the backs recline, they have armrests, a height adjusting lever, and they're on rollers. The computers have dimmers or glare screens, and the cubicles are rather spacious. The management and supervisors are fair and understanding with their staff, and my fellow interviewers are nice people, earning an honest living (which makes them beautiful).

Séan Dorsey
San Francisco

[Comfy chairs, dimmers ... is it as nice as the V.A. hospital?]

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Complacent community

Re: AIDS Office rules in SF sex clubs: I read with a heavy sadness in my heart concerning the final outcome and rulings by the DHP about the sex clubs. But I'm left to wonder who to be more angry at. Sandra Hernandez (lesbian), Mitch Katz (gay), the Coalition for Healthy Sex (dictators with special interest), or the gay community (complacent) as a whole?

I can recall when gay men, transgendered people, lesbians and straight would kick ass and fight for something they believed back in the '60s, '70s and '80s. In fact, this is what brought me out as a gay teen and gave me the strength to stand up for who I was (becoming) and what I believed. Those times were my inspiration, my passion, my life.

Today, I went to the S.F. Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation because I'm being screwed by my COBRA administrator. I went because I want to find out how to fight the system that was set up to allow insurance companies to arbitrarily increase premium prices, causing people in droves to lose their insurance.

What I got was, "Well, your income is such that MediCal will pay for your premium (or at least part), and did you know that you qualify for food stamps? Get back to me on Monday." I thought to myself, "I'm not here to learn how to use the system, I'm here to fight for what I believe is wrong with the system."

As I was deep in thought on our (beautiful?) Muni system, it hit me, the word complacency. We as gay people (because of AIDS, disabilities and what-not) have been entered into a system (welfare) which basically has taken away our fight for what we believe and replaced it with a self-loathing kind of contentment. Sort of a "whatever will be, will be" Doris Day-type of attitude. Even ACT UP doesn't carry the same type of kiss-ass attitude or weight it once did.

Why? Because in some way, we're all being paid off, whether through the welfare system, kick-backs from the pharmaceutical companies, donations from the private sector, etc. to sit back, look pretty, and to be quiet. And we're all guilty of this.

This is sad, and this is what wrenches my heart! It's especially hard for me that the several people (Sandra Hernandez and Mitch Katz most notably) who sit in a public office, who are gay, are the very same ones using the advantage of their political offices to attack, abuse and dismantle the very freedoms we (the gay community) fought so hard to obtain throughout the '60s, '70s and '80s. Yet we just sit back, look pretty, and remain quiet.

Where's the fight? Where's the verve? I say let's kick ass!

Steven D. Keller
San Francisco

Unsupervised sex

I am disgusted by the endless bickering and arguing over the right to maintain bathhouses and have unsupervised sex in various establishments throughout San Francisco. Some of the letters even mention the erosion of gay rights. Rights? Whatever happened to fighting for gay rights under more noble causes such as equality in the workplace and gay marriage? Certainly these issues would earn more respect among society and bring us closer to being treated as equal citizens. Rather, we cry like babies because we can not have unsupervised sex in bathhouses and sex clubs. I guess the issue of anonymous sex is more important to the gay community than the issue of gay marriage and domestic partnership. The latter requires a degree of maturity and responsibility.

Let me bring home my second point by drawing an analogy. I believe the City of San Francisco should spend countless millions of taxpayer dollars to put up street signs everywhere and offer an endless array of nonjudgmental and nonmoralistic pedestrian safety education courses. After all, a gay man, in his stupor after taking drugs and alcohol, might jump out in front of a moving vehicle and get hit.

Borris Miller
San Francisco

From Stonewall to Spanner

Regarding the Spanner appeal, our community did its best to right an unjust sentence in Britain. As Ben Franklin said, "We must all hang together, or we shall all hang separately." We may have lost the case, but the law is being changed.

Some say we should keep silent and go back in the closet, but Stonewall taught us to stand up together and be strong and free ... besides, it's too late to stuff SM back in a closet. From Stonewall to Spanner, the message is the same: organize and educate. Out of the dungeons and into the street.

Congratulations to SF leather people and our supporters. We lost the case but proved we can stand together and create change. SM is healthy, safe, and fun. We are human beings and have a duty to speak against injustice and create a stronger community by doing so.

We are here, we are queer, and we like SM, and that should be okay if it's safe, sane, and consensual.

Peter Fiske
Chairman, 15 Association/SF

Dis-ability

Recently I applied for some financial assistance from an AIDS service. I was told I needed a letter from my doctor stating that I had, using these specific words, dis-abling HIV. I feel uncomfortable saying that about myself and having it on paper. In the last few years I have been challenged with a lack of energy and a few other physical situations that have caused me to quit working. In the past when I've applied for assistance the word dis-ability was used. I was uncomfortable with that word back then, and it has always been difficult for me to hear or use the phrase, "I am on dis-ability."

The other night when faced with asking my doctor for this letter, I looked up the words disable and disability in the dictionary, and here is some of what I found:

Dis-ability: A disabled state. Incapacity. A legal incapacity or disqualification.

Dis-able: To make motionless or powerless by damage or injury. To weaken or destroy the normal physical or mental abilities. To render legally disqualified. Core meaning: to render motionless or powerless by infliction of severe injury or damage.

I read this information and knew why I was feeling so uncomfortable. It was because I feel words are very powerful things and how we use them sets energies, positive and negative, in motion.

My intent in writing this letter is not meant to offend any of the services or people who have helped me through some tough times. I am very grateful for all the love and support I have received. I just feel compelled to express some thoughts and feelings. Because one thing I know: no matter what happens to my physical body or mind, I will always be able to do something! Even if that is just the ability to hold a place of love in my heart for my family and friends.

John Rizzi
Occidental, CA

Stop the real drug menace

With many in my community talking about the "speed epidemic" that is raging in the SF gay and lesbian community I say where have you been? There was a speed epidemic in our town back in 1981 at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic.

Today I need to tell this community that speed, alcohol, ecstasy, and a few other drugs are a problem for the SF gay & lesbian community, but the real emergency is heroin. Having lived in San Francisco since 1975, and having worked in the bar business for nearly 20 years, I am shocked that Polk Street, Haight Street, and all of its hotels are abundant with heroin.

I am sick of the SFPD using tax dollars for investigations into medical marijuana sales, trafficking, or any other venture regarding marijuana in San Francisco, while kids are being killed by heroin, crack, and speed dealers.

If we are to have a narcotics unit in SF it should get its priorities straight. Close the crack houses, stop speed sales — at the top, and come to grips with a larger problem: the emergence of the killer drug heroin.

Perhaps the narcotics unit can spare an officer to find the killer of Tony Ray as well — that killing was drug-related.

Gary Allen Johnson
San Francisco

Wave of denial

Regarding the "Out There" column of 3/6/97 in which this statement appears: "Andrew Sullivan asked the question, 'What do we write about when AIDS ends?' Then the columnists answer by saying, 'Well, literary friends, in case you haven't noticed, there's no shortage of things in this universe to write about...'"

As a person with HIV disease, I take great offense that the columnists did not respond by saying that AIDS hasn't ended. It is precisely this kind of glib and thoughtless journalism that undoes the political and social work so many of us are engaged in as we try to pry this country out of its denial around protease inhibitors. *The epidemic is not over!* There is a great deal of difference between "feeling better" and "being cured." And there are thousands of people for whom new drugs make no difference, either because they don't work for them or because they can't access them. Protease inhibitors are wonderful for some people, at least so far. I have benefited dramatically from them. But they are not the answer to AIDS.

Please don't contribute to the new wave of denial sweeping this country. AIDS is still here. Look around. Those of us with the virus are not cured; the virus is not eradicated from the human population. Let Andrew Sullivan stumble around in his own denial. Don't promulgate it for him or for anyone else by letting him get away with such sweeping assumptions.

Krandall Kraus
San Francisco

[We have said the epidemic is not over dozens of times — everywhere, perhaps, but in "Out There," which sort of prides itself on its glibness. But thoughtless Never.]

POLITICS

Al gets gored

by Wayne Friday

When President Bill Clinton won a second term four months ago, the Democratic Party nomination for the next presidential sweepstakes in the year 2000 was seen by most party officials and party voters alike as being "in the political bag" for Clinton's hand-picked successor, Vice President Al "Mr. Clean" Gore. With the possible exception of a Dick Gephardt candidacy, a pitched battle for the party's next nod was seen as an unlikely possibility by most. Now, however, after reports of the veep making "unethical" if not in fact illegal, phone calls to party contributors from his White House office, Gore, who confirmed the account but claims he did nothing wrong, suddenly appears vulnerable.

When Clinton and Gore decided during the 1992 election race to take the Democratic Party more to the political center (Democratic "moderates" they are now called), the two left out the "old" Democratic Party – the one long controlled by the so-called "liberals." The Bill Clinton-Al Gore Democratic Party is known as the "New" Democratic Party. It is somewhat reminiscent of the "conservative" wing of, say, the Jimmy Carter or even the John F. Kennedy Demo Party.

Unquestionably, this move to the middle, while not necessarily beneficial for the party as a whole, was pivotal in getting the president re-elected. Now that Gore (still the odds-on favorite for the top of the ticket in 2000) has stumbled a bit, other Democrats are said to be seriously considering vying with the vice president for the nomination – some old-style liberals among them.

As previously mentioned, House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri, the hero of labor liberals and an "Old Democrat" in the tradition of the late Hubert Humphrey, is a probable opponent. Also, Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, probably the Senate's most liberal member, has emerged as a possible candidate and could end up battling Gephardt for his party's "liberal" support.

Senator Bob Kerry of Nebraska is reportedly telling Democratic officials to "keep their options open," as he, too, is evidently thinking of entering the primary fights for the next Democratic nomination. Former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley has done the same. Both Kerry and Bradley have proclaimed their "independence" from President Clinton and some of his policies and can be expected to give Al Gore headaches three years hence.

Of course, we shouldn't forget Jesse Jackson. Jackson is almost certainly mulling over a possible run.

And yes, another name that's been bandied about – for a veep spot – in our nation's capital in recent weeks is that of California's senior senator, Dianne Feinstein. As CNN's respected political analyst in Washington, William Schneider, pointed out last week, the Democrats are heavily indebted to women (both Democratic



That's the ticket: VP Al Gore and DiFi in a 1992 snap.

and Republican) voters, who voted overwhelmingly for the Clinton-Gore ticket last November. The party would be very smart to put a woman on the ticket in 2000. If Dianne Feinstein runs for governor of California next year and wins, the party would be hard put not to offer her (considering the Golden State's 54 electoral votes) the vice-presidential slot.

To be sure, Al Gore will not get the nomination merely for the asking. Will the New Democratic

Party have control of the party machinery – and hence the nominations – in 2000? Or will the Old Democrats prevail?

Yet again, upcoming political events will likely be determined by the economy. Most agree that if it stays strong and "Teflon Bill" can remain popular, Al Gore will eventually grab the brass ring. However, if the economy takes a dive and the prez's political fortunes suffer, look for the more liberal wing to attempt to seize the reins as the next presidential election looms.

Don't bet the farm on it, but if Al Gore wins the nod and Feinstein is our next governor, look for a very strong Gore-Feinstein ticket to see us into the next millennium.

Politics and poker

Speaking of DiFi, the guessing game continues on a possible gubernatorial run by the popular senator, who enjoys a whopping 86 percent approval rating in the Bay Area, according to a recent poll. One of Feinstein's close advisers told me last week that "if she had to decide today, I'd say she is leaning against another run for governor. But she isn't deciding today, and party leaders up and down the state are pushing her hard to get in and take back the governorship for the Democrats."

Republican California Secretary of State Bill Jones last week ordered a review of the 1.3 million Orange County residents registered to vote last November in hopes of taking back the congressional seat now held by Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D) that once belonged to Bob Dornan (R). Jones, a Dornan ally, is flagrantly misusing his office in what a Sanchez spokesperson correctly called "a dangerous, ominous, and partisan abuse of the power of government." You may remember that during his campaign, Jones played the gay card against

Tony Miller.

GOP state Treasurer Matt Fong announced to reporters last week that he will seek his party's nod next year to run against Senator Barbara Boxer. "We have not officially announced it, but I'm a candidate," Fong said.

Former presidential Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, now living back in Monterey, was hired last week as a \$900-a-day consultant by the California State University at Monterey. Panetta's wife Sylvia already works there for a mere \$500-a-day. Where do I go to find such employment?

The ultra-conservative California Republican Assembly (CRA) will hold its statewide convention April 4-6 at the Red Lion in Ontario, Calif., and big-name Repubs like Texas Governor George Bush Jr., Tennessee Senator Fred Thompson, Steve Forbes and, naturally, Pat Robertson are scheduled to speak.

Friends and associates of openly gay Assistant District Attorney Chuck Haines are urging him to run for Superior Court judge next year.

This could change, but it now looks like a bitter dogfight between Democrat state Senate leader Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward) and Chief Deputy Attorney General (read: Dan Lungren clone) David Stirling, a Republican, for the right to succeed Lungren as the state's top cop next year.

Super rocker Elton John will celebrate his 50th birthday March 25 with a star-studded party to raise badly needed research funds for the Elton John AIDS Foundation. Every big name in Hollywood is reportedly scrambling for the pricey tick.

For your reading pleasure, I recommend *Icebreaker: The Autobiography of Rudy Galindo* (Pocket Books, \$23). Though not of the highest literary quality, the openly gay skater's story of ultimate triumph over many adversities is inspirational, nonetheless.

Some high-level D.C. gaylesbian activists are debating whether or not to "out" that powerful Midwestern congressperson who chairs one of the House's most important committees.

Also in Washington, freshman Senator Robert Torricelli (D-New Jersey) last week extended benefits of the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act to gay members of his staff. Some lawmakers have done so informally, but Torricelli is the first to write it into his personnel manual (it means a homosexual staffer can get unpaid leave to care for a companion in a medical emergency). ▼

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Civilization ... the antidote to?

by Beth Elliott

Nod to March Madness Dept.: Go, Lady Dons!

In Kathmandu, I invariably awoke at four in the morning to find myself in that meditative state between waking and dreaming. I had the sense of taking part in communications, which were neither in symbols nor spoken words, but whose meaning was clear. The message was always "Civilization ... this is what your lessons here are about ... pay attention." I would then ponder for the better part of an hour before catching some more sleep.

The immediate question of civilization was Nepal's. Some amount of modernization is inevitable, since the country's survival depends on it. While the rate of population growth in the rest of the country is at a decent level, Kathmandu Valley's population is growing at a 7% annual clip – partly due to migration into the big city from the countryside, as is happening all over the planet. The wholesale cutting of trees for fuel has been the subject of laws for centuries; today, the disastrous consequences are multiplied. Western ("Asian tiger") technology, ecological awareness, democracy, a raising of the status of women – all have made a foothold and are accepted as necessary to Nepal's future, and to the preservation and con-

cerning Nepal's 22 indigenous ethnic groups can be found "social qualities that can generate and sustain progress – a commitment to productive labor, a high capacity for endurance, efficient cooperative styles, and a high adaptive propensity at individual and social levels." However, says Bista, a culture of fatalism is undermining Nepal's ability to call on strengths based in its own culture to develop in ways that will meld the best of old Nepal with a modern standard of living. Nepal runs the risk of passively allowing outsiders to do the development. As a result, the benefits do not always go to the productive people who create growth – thus reinforcing fatalism.

There is a kind of fatalism that threatens our modern, developed West as well. It's the assumption that civilization maintains itself and will be here to provide for us without our effort to maintain it, even if our only interest in it is to insist the sugar it we're entitled to have sustains us never dries up. We have to contribute to its maintenance, each of us, in terms of both economy and culture.

Like Nepal, we need not only to call on the best traits among us but also to participate in and nurture a common culture. You can't have politics without a polis.

The kind of fatalism that threatens our modern, developed West is the assumption that civilization maintains itself and will be here to provide for us without our effort to maintain it.

tinuation of its abundant cultural treasures.

And yet, there is danger in giving in to the simplistic equation that the Western/modern is good and the traditional is backward. Equally treacherous is the notion that people should surrender the preservation of historical sites to ecotourists instead of valuing their own heritage enough to preserve it on their own, through reliance on traditional indigenous methods wherever possible.

Famous treasure

In Thamel, there is a little treasure in the form of a world-famous bookstore. Pilgrim Books (one of Kathmandu's three dream bookstores for trekkers and dharma bums) has its well-stocked shelves, a cafe with outdoor tables, and weekly dinners with traditional Nepali music. Were I to spend some time doing the expatriate writer thing, I could visualize myself sitting outdoors at Pilgrim, knocking back masala tea and writing away after a lunch of *daal baht* (lentil stew and cooked rice, usually served with curried veggies).

During one of many hours spent browsing my way through Pilgrim Books, I came across Dor Bahadur Bista's *Fatalism and Development: Nepal's Struggle for Modernization*. Bista says that

zation of civilization derives from some sense of commonality – unless it is imposed from above or without.

Radical center

This is why some people have idealized the farmer-citizen (or even the small entrepreneur-citizen) as the guardian of freedom (individually) and free societies (in voluntary concert). This would be the mid-ground, the radical center if you will, between all versus all and all for the state. The difference between the radical center and the extremes is that it believes in both individual responsibility and the need for community. It's the radical center that rejects both the welfare state and the corporate welfare state.

(Speaking of which, since someone mentioned "18th century American laissez-faire capitalism," it should be pointed out that 18th century capitalism was neither American nor laissez-faire. First, it was British. Second, it was based on sucking up to the Crown to get awarded the "right" to a monopoly, enforced by the physical force of the Crown. This is the type of system favored by both collectivists and corporate welfare queens – the only argument between them is who's entitled to the preferential treatment and why.)

Last week, I drove down to San Jose after work for an evening of "hedge school" with my friend Rowan, an erudite Celtic revivalist known for her seminar, "What We Know and Don't Know About the Ancient Celts." She has gathered a group of women interested in knowing what our sometimes overidealized, sometimes sentimentalized culture's roots really were. Celts had a clan system. Those down on their luck could call on their clan for aid, but were expected to put out the effort to support themselves. How very similar to Nepal, which is benefiting from ecotourists while reminding us to engage in commerce with them rather than charity.

In all the talk these days about culture, may we remember that's only the starting point, the foundation of something this world needs to maintain: civilization. ▼

Ellen news ... if you care

by Valerie Kuklenski UPI Entertainment Editor

On April 30, the same night Ellen DeGeneres' character, Ellen Morgan, reveals her homosexuality on the ABC sitcom *Ellen*, DeGeneres herself is expected to discuss her own orientation on the network's *Primetime Live*, according to *Daily Variety*.

The comic's interview with Diane Sawyer will air back-to-back with *Ellen* at the start of the May ratings sweeps period.

In Los Angeles over the weekend, DeGeneres received a three-minute standing ovation at the Media Awards banquet presented by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which reportedly moved her to tears. She said, "What better way to change the show and do something positive and wonderful than by having my character come out?"

"I started doing research for the character," she added, drawing big laughs. "There were so many people to consult."

Kd lang kissed DeGeneres on the mouth at the event. Twice. ▼

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by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media
resource center manager

In the third segment of San Francisco PBS-affiliate KQED-TV's acclaimed series "Neighborhoods: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco," director/writer Peter L. Stein takes a close look at the transition of the Castro district from a sleepy immigrant community to the "Gay Mecca" that it is today. In addition to covering the neighborhood itself, *The Castro*, which aired March 15, told the story of lesbian and gay San Francisco, and its connections to national lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender politics and community. Additionally, Stein, an openly gay filmmaker, recognizes that while the Castro is, as the documentary states, "a kind of gay hometown" for some, it has fostered a love-hate feeling in others, including people of color and women, who have sometimes felt marginalized by the predominantly white and male citizenry. The anti-gay violence in the neighborhood is discussed, as is the commercialism of the "strip."

The documentary not only opens up the neighborhood to all the program's viewers, but documents a unique, vital gay neighborhood from its beginning.

Please thank KQED for both producing and airing *The Castro*. Contact: Mary Bitterman, President, KQED, 601 Mariposa Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-1400, comment line: 415.553.2100, e-mail: tv@qed.org.

**Good things about
'Night Sins'**

Night Sins, a two-part mini-series that aired on CBS February 23 and 25, featured a subplot including two closeted gay men in what may be the most direct sexual scene between two men so far on network television. In *Night Sins*, Valerie Bertinelli and Harry Hamlin work to solve a small-town abduction of a



The Castro director/writer Peter L. Stein (left) chats with (l to r) Supe Susan Leal, Randy Alfred, Sherry Boschart and Elizabeth Weise at KQED during the broadcast of his much-anticipated documentary.

Jane Philomen O'Farrell

young boy. Hamlin's investigation leads him to a professor who lies to disassociate himself from the kidnapper, whom he suspects to be a pedophile.

When Hamlin goes to the professor's house to question him a second time, he walks on the professor and his male lover rolling around under the sheets. While Hamlin interrogates them, both men are shown embracing in bed nude from the waist up. The professor explains that in a small town, he could lose his job if people found out he was gay, and that telling the truth would have meant exposing this. Moreover, he suspects the kidnapper is a child abuser, and says he will not have his life as a gay man connected to the acts of a "sick and twisted" pedophile.

The gay men play two important roles in promoting accurate and inclusive representation of gay people. By explaining the real discrimination gay people face both in their communities and the workplace, the professor not only highlights how the force of the closet can lead to other lies, but his own fears that the community would react to him with the hateful myth that gay men are pedophiles (in fact, studies show that over 98 percent of child molesters are heterosexual men). Additionally, by showing two gay men in bed together, CBS further destigmatizes this image and moves television closer to showing authentic and natural same-sex intimacy.

Please commend CBS for an intelligent and courageous inclusion of gay men in *Night Sins*. Contact: Leslie Moonves, President of CBS Entertainment, CBS, 7800 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036, e-mail: marketing@cbs.com.

CNN plays 'Sexual Roulette'

On "Sexual Roulette," the March 9 episode of *Impact*, a new show on CNN, correspondent David Lewis took on the sensitive and controversial topic of why some young gay men continue to practice unsafe sex despite knowledge of how to prevent HIV infection. Focusing on South Beach in Miami, Lewis says, "Behind the facade of perfect bodies and perfect tans lies a dark reality: According to a troubling new study, one out of every four gay men in South Beach has tested positive for HIV." He then interviews both those conducting the study and HIV-positive

and negative young gay men, who discuss reasons why people make dangerous sexual choices. They range from thinking pro-tease inhibitors mean a cure is near, to practicing unsafe sex in supposedly monogamous relationships that aren't. Also, as one young man puts it, "An element of that self-loathing, that homophobia that drives kids to do things that are not the best things for them, and that they know better." Then Lewis does not quote people as he speculates about the role of bathhouses: "The resurgence of gay bathhouses and sex clubs across the U.S. is another problem, critics contend. Inside most, condoms are free and safe sex posters are everywhere. But it's also a place where gay men have anonymous sex," he says.

"Some AIDS activists claim that most unsafe sex takes place in the bedroom, not in clubs ... But other activists argue that the type of person who frequents a bathhouse usually has multiple unsafe partners, causing the virus to spread further from the backroom to the bedroom, and on to the larger community."

In general, the story provided thoughtful and reasoned investigation, but the imagery accompanying the reporting told a different story. The images seemed to be there mostly to titillate, with lurid close-ups of the (headless) bodies of muscular men at the White Party, bathhouse interiors, men attached to IVs in the hospital, and the neon lights on Ocean Drive. Additionally, without any cited evidence or interviews to back his claim about the "type of people" who go to bathhouses, Lewis simply rehashes the same attacks on gay sex that first surfaced in the mid-eighties. His comment that "those types" will spread disease "to the larger community" sounds a lot like the gay sex-bashing AIDS hysteria of a decade ago.

Please write to CNN and let them know that coverage of this critical issue is appreciated, but that the sensational imagery and misleading commentary confused and misrepresented the story. Contact: Ed Turner, Executive Vice President, CNN, 1 CNN Center, Atlanta, GA 30348-5466, fax: 404.737.3323, e-mail: cnn.feedback@cnn.com.

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COMMENTARY

'Paper or plastic?'

by Terry Beswick

Sounds a tad cliché, I know, but it's hard to believe that it was over ten years ago. Yet there it was in the paper: a ten year reunion of that San Francisco group of hoodlums that later became known as the "AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power." Ten years. I mean, who would've guessed?

My own recruitment to what we then called, with a touch of grandiosity, a "movement" began typically enough. A struggling young actor and **Cafe Flore** busboy in 1986. I was furiously strolling (as was my wont) through the **Castro** when I heard angry, megaphone-amplified voices by the old B of A at **Harvey Milk Plaza**. Curious, and probably thankful for an excuse to loiter, I approached the crowd of several dozen ragtag protesters and onlookers.

My eyes locked on a rather handsome young man with curly blonde tresses and a slight southern twang, holding forth about something or other to enthusiastic response. I moved in for closer inspection. I'm sure there were abundant hand-painted signs, leaflets and even crude little buttons, though I honestly can't remember what issue *du jour* he was carrying on about.

Certainly, there have been

streets. What else could we do? We had nothing to lose.

Thank you, Ronnie!

For those infected, their very lives were at stake, and some were unapologetically in it solely to save their own skins. Even for those of us still uninfected, we felt it was only a matter of time before our number came up. In any case, our youth and innocence were being stolen away, and we would only get it back if we got rid of AIDS.

I remember worrying:ing that I had heard The Call so late in the epidemic, and I would never be considered a leader before it was all over with. I actually worried about my place in posterity. I wore a button that said something like, "What will you say when they ask what you did to fight AIDS?" We could be so pious, so self-righteous back then.

There were only a dozen or so of us in Citizens for Medical Justice. Several are of course now dead. After the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights (did we have bisexuals then?), we doubled our membership and morphed into a group called AIDS Action Pledge, which renamed itself (by consensus) ACT UP/San Francisco in 1988, acquiescing to the name

Francisco economy prepares for collapse. But, others point out, people are still dying, there's no cure or vaccine, and who knows? Maybe there will yet be a second wave of virulent, resistant strains...

To this day, I feel as though my insides were torn out by the Plague. Particularly when I left ACT UP and San Francisco, and went to Washington, D.C. to work for the Human Rights Campaign, and then Bill Clinton's White House, I realized I had made that critical transition: for all intents and purposes, there was precious little difference between me and the enemy, which was of course the status quo. It's an evil game, AIDS politics.

So, one too many burnouts has closed that chapter, and left me sitting by the sea, happy to be alive, writing self-indulgent reminiscences of the ol' days, acting again on the virtual stage of the theater instead of politics, tinkering on my computer, and, on the side, asking again, "Paper or plastic?"

Anyway. Happy Anniversary, comrades, wherever you are. And especially to the handsome, angry young man. ▼



To this day, I feel as though my insides were torn out by the Plague. People are still dying.

many to suggest that I and all the others who joined the protesters were simply rebels searching for a cause - any cause. Or perhaps spoiled little egotists demanding power, fame, fortune, and other undeserved privileges - but really in need of intensive psychotherapy, or even Valium (this was pre-Prozac). Or we were just trying to get laid.

Boys just wanna have fun

In hindsight, I am sure that I wanted to get laid. And indeed, I did, and with that handsome young man that very night ... those were the glory days of AIDS activism.

But I think what really got me hooked on what was then known as "Citizens for Medical Justice," and what got me in all sorts of bizarre scandals for ten more years with all manner of miscreants, was a simple four-letter word: **fear**. I was horrified that, now that I was finally ready to emerge into the adult world of gay sexual freedom, there was this unseen, sexually-transmitted virus that was quietly killing gay men in droves.

It doesn't have the edge today that it did then, it seems, but at the time my veins ran cold with fear, and there was a veiled mixture of panic and grief in the eyes of every gay man passed on the street. For the unlucky ones, bluish lesions served like bells hung round lepers' necks.

God bless **Ronnie Reagan** (today doubtlessly wishing he'd invested more in medical research), Dannemeyer, Helms, Doolittle, and those they served us well with their proposals for quarantine, mandatory testing and the like, galvanizing our fear into rage and forcing us onto the

first adopted in New York (and any New Yorker would tell you that all things worthwhile begin there); riding a national wave of enthusiasm and rage, our numbers quadrupled, and quadrupled again, almost overnight.

Action=Life!

Heady times, those. In the Spring of 1988, while washing dishes at **Just Desserts**, I became involved in coordinating a week of simultaneous protests in over 30 cities and towns around the country. Searching for ways to communicate effectively, we tried to link up by computer (*this is my token effort to touch on the subject of computers*), and with the help of one of our members who worked for a group called **PeaceNet**, we did manage to link up several of the AIDS activists around the country to some type of DOS-based bulletin board to exchange e-mails. It was a flop, as the technology was simply too cumbersome - it was so much easier to use snail mail, and to hold expensive conference calls with several dozen people trying to chime in their two cents.

Today, of course, people seem to use computers and faxes to communicate and access information at least as much as the postal service and the telephone. But - and maybe I've just gotten older - the anger seems to be gone, and the **technology** that we have at our disposal seems almost to dissipate our energy, rather than facilitate it.

They say the **epidemic has passed its peak**, at least among gay white men, so maybe everyone is just dusting off their old resumes and practicing their old service-industry skills as the AIDS industry shuts down and the San

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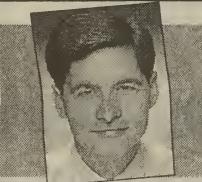
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Achtenberg named SF Chamber of Commerce public policy chief

by Cynthia Laird

Former San Francisco supervisor and Clinton administration appointee Roberta Achtenberg has been named senior vice president for public policy of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, chamber president and CEO Rhea Serpan announced Sunday, March 16. Achtenberg, who served as a senior advisor to former Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Henry Cisneros, was the highest ranking openly lesbian official in the United States government.

Serpan cited Achtenberg's connections to the neighborhoods and a diversity of groups throughout the community as a "critical link that will serve as a uniting influence."

"This chamber and the San Francisco business community have made a commitment to working as a partner with the public sector to find new approaches to solving key problems," Serpan said. "We see the city's economic vitality as the cornerstone to a better quality of life for San Francisco's residents."

In her new post, which starts this Tuesday, March 25, Achtenberg said her goals will be to help the chamber work to help those affected by welfare reform.

"We want to put together a work experience program for people who need to move from welfare to work, and job training programs in schools that are sponsored by the business community," Achtenberg told the B.A.R.

She said one of the things that led her to the chamber job was the "way the chamber embraced the domestic partner benefits law" passed by the Board of Supervisors and signed into law last year by Mayor Willie Brown.

Small businesses helped

"This is the chamber that opposed [the anti-Affirmative Action] Proposition 209 on the grounds that diversity is a strength of the California econ-



Jane Philomen Cleland

Roberta returneth.

my," Achtenberg said. "The San Francisco chamber is a champion of small businesses. Just last week, the chamber announced a new healthcare plan that makes health benefits more affordable and accessible to small companies – and which includes coverage for domestic partners."

Last Tuesday, March 11, the chamber announced the new healthcare benefits plan for its members. Carol Piasente, chamber spokeswoman, said the plan is effective immediately, with the domestic partner coverage going into effect June 1, in keeping with the deadline for companies that do business with the city to comply with the new law.

Serpan said the new plan, available through Benefit Marketing Insurance Services, will save small companies an average of five percent on their healthcare costs. He also said the availability of benefits coverage for domestic partners was a need expressed by small businesses that are chamber members.

The chamber's healthcare plan includes three providers: Kaiser Permanente, United Healthcare, and Blue Shield of California.

Piasente said that 75 percent of the chamber's 1,965 members have 50 or fewer employees.

In announcing Achtenberg's appointment, Serpan cited her accomplishments as an elected member of the board of supervi-

sors and being a "reform-minded administrator" during her successful tenure as a HUD official as qualifications for the challenges faced in San Francisco.

"Continued business creation and job growth require more efficient government, more opportunities for access to skills preparation and jobs, an improved infrastructure, and planning for land use, and development," Serpan said. "These are issues Roberta understands and has some significant experience in addressing."

'A great fit'

For more than 15 years Achtenberg worked as a civil rights attorney, nonprofit director, and legal educator, including appointments as a teaching fellow at the Stanford Law School and as dean of New College of California School of Law in San Francisco.

Achtenberg served on the board of United Way and was legal director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR). She lives in San Francisco with her partner, former municipal court Judge Mary C. Morgan, and their son, Benjamin.

Thomas Ray, vice president and government liaison for the Golden Gate Business Association (GGBA), praised Achtenberg's appointment, saying, "We think it's wonderful. She's a great resource, and she has a real talent for grasping issues. She'll bring a sensitivity to gay and lesbian issues, and it's one more inroad at bringing gays and lesbians into the mainstream business community."

Mixing humor with seriousness, Supervisor Tom Ammiano said, "I guess they'll be keeping the toilet seat down."

"There's always hope she'll move them to a more progressive way of thinking," Ammiano said, adding he sees the chamber's focusing on changes in welfare as a positive move.

"I think it's a great fit and certainly bodes well for San Francisco," NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendall told the B.A.R. "She's a tremendously talented individual who we're lucky is back home." ▼

Stanford students to help at Dolores St. Community Services during spring break

by Cynthia Laird

Dolores Street Community Services will give a unique opportunity to 11 Stanford University students, who in turn will do something different during their upcoming spring break. On Thursday, March 27, while many of their colleagues will be spending time at the beach, the Stanford students will take part in an "Alternative Spring Break" to help make the Mission District emergency housing program a better place for the homeless.

"We are delighted that these young people are eager to do something constructive during their spring break," said Bob Nelson, Dolores Street Community

Services executive director.

The Stanford students will work on maintenance projects such as cleaning, painting, and inventory supplies. Nelson said there will be ample opportunity for the students to meet and work with the homeless and those who have been recently homeless.

"We hope that the students will learn a little about what it is like to be homeless and in need within our modern society," Nelson said.

Dolores Street Community Services operates an emergency housing program for homeless individuals in San Francisco's Mission District. The agency's housing program provides support services and shelter for over 70 individuals daily and 2,000 people

annually.

The agency relies on volunteers and groups such as the students at Stanford University to increase the effectiveness of the programs and to personalize its services. Nelson said the maintenance project such as the one next week will improve the quality of the facilities, which enhances the dignity and self-esteem of the shelter's guests.

Dolores Street Community Services was organized in 1982 as a multi-service agency to address the needs of people in the Mission and Castro neighborhoods. Its programs also include the Richard M. Cohen residence for homeless people living with HIV, and a community center at 938 Valencia Street. ▼

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Will my insurance cover my new medication ? Is being on a "drug cocktail" better for me ? Is it safe to store my medications together ? How can I best schedule my medications to take them as prescribed ? Is there any way to relieve the nausea my medication gives me ?

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HRC committee hears about sex regs

by Liz Highleyman

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Advisory Committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) devoted the majority of its Tuesday, March 18 meeting to the discussion of Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations governing the city's sex clubs.

The DPH recently implemented its "Minimum Standards for the Operation of Sex Clubs and Parties," and several area sex clubs and theaters were notified earlier this month of the DPH's intention to implement a "proactive" inspection process. All but one of the targeted establishments serve a primarily gay male clientele.

AIDS Office Director Mitch Katz stated that the goal of the DPH is to prevent as many new HIV infections as possible. While transmission rates among gay men have decreased relative to those of other populations, of the 1,000 new infections that occur in a year, 650 are among gay and bi-

sexual men.

Katz emphasized that the regulations were not new, but had been in use for at least four years. He said he has received "no shortage of input," both from those wishing to close sex clubs altogether and those who wish to allow bathhouses with private rooms, and emphasized that the DPH has a role in regulating commercial business where people go to meet others to have sex with each other, but not places like hotels or hot tub facilities where people may go together to have sex in private.

Katz believes that the majority of clubs will pass the planned inspections and remain open. While "the reality is that most of the clubs are gay," Katz emphasized that the policy applies equally to gay and non-gay establishments.

Buzz Bense, owner of Club Eros, thanked the HRC for its support in 1989 when his 890 Folsom club was raided by police. Speaking on behalf of the Coalition for Healthy Sex (CHS), Bense referred to "the monster we had

created," and noted that "no community group has endorsed these regulations nor the process of instituting them." Bense disagreed with Katz's contention that the regulations were not new, pointing out that at no time in the past has there been enforcement of monitoring.

"Monitoring sets up problems between clubs patrons, operators, and employees," said Bense. He went on to point out that "owners cannot be responsible for every act of every customer." Club owners are "100 percent responsible for the facility," but customers are "fully responsible for playing safely."

Dan Wohlfeiler, Education Director of the Stop AIDS Project, stated that the sex club issue involves two goals — the maximization of rights and the minimization of new HIV infections. Noting that 250 of 361 gay men recently surveyed by his agency said they would not intervene if they saw someone having unsafe sex in a club, he asserted that unsafe behavior is not just an issue for the people having sex, but could also have a larger public health impact.

Prohibition never works

Richard Carrazza of Community United for Sexual Privacy (CUSP) stated that monitoring regulations focus on negative reinforcement, and that "prohibition has never worked." He claimed that "gay men need more opportunities to meet, socialize, and make love, not fewer." Not all gay men have the luxury of bring-

now having unsafe sex at home would begin to come to bathhouses to have safe sex, were they to reopen.

Several participants noted that gay people from all over come to San Francisco to escape persecution, and pointed out the irony that the city has a more draconian sex club policy than most other cities. Ronnie Burk of ACT UP/San Francisco stated that he finds it "offensive that the DPH insists on policing private adult sexual behavior." Michael Petrelis noted that two new bathhouses recently opened in Texas, yet it is "impossible to get our supposed friends in the health department to wake up to the reality of AIDS prevention in 1997." He urged greater availability of and education about the Reality internal condom and microbicides that prevent viral transmission.

The LGBT Advisory Committee decided to revisit the issue at their May meeting, and to consider issuing a recommendation regarding the DPH standards.

No community support

Tuesday's meeting comes after Bense's presentation of a letter to the DPH at last week's CHS meeting, stating the group's opposition to the imposition of the new regulations. The letter, which was unanimously approved, noted that due to the "aborted legislative process" (attempting to institute legislation governing sex clubs), "public hearings on the regulations were not held, nor did the CHS have an opportunity to comment." The letter concluded that "the gay community will not support regulations that are imposed," and that "we must find a way to balance legitimate public health con-

page 28 ▶

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ing men to their private homes.

That point was reiterated by Russ Hilkene of FTM International, who pointed out that transgendered men who have sex with other men need private spaces, and that public disclosure is a risk. He stated that he would "feel more comfortable in a private room in a public club" than in his own or a potential partner's home.

Jonathan Klein, also of CUSP, asserted that the gay community "has a right to self-determination and a right to decide what kind of community institutions to have and how they operate." Klein postulated that mandatory monitoring may actually contribute to higher rates of HIV transmission, because it gives men the message that they are not personally responsible, because negotiation is virtually impossible, and because sex clubs are "so unnatural" and unlike the setting of a private home. Katz replied that this was speculative, and noted that there is no reason to believe that men

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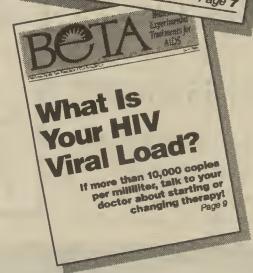
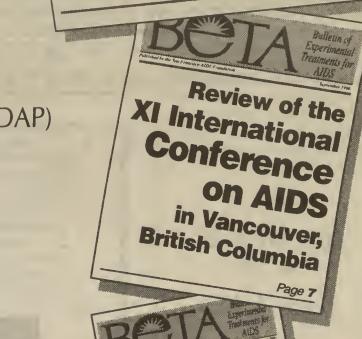
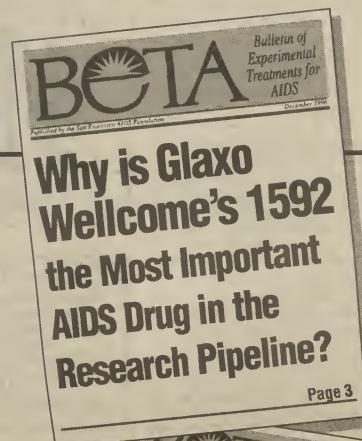


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Ron Hill appointed to Health Commission

by Cynthia Laird

Penalty gay HIV-positive resident Ron Hill has been appointed to the San Francisco Health Commission, Mayor Willie Brown's office announced Monday, March 17. Hill, who will be sworn in Thursday, March 20, replaces former commissioner Thomas Lee Eades, who resigned in late January.

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Hill said he's excited about the appointment, but knows there will be many challenges.

"I think I have a lot to bring to the Health Commission. I don't know that much, but I'll know more after Friday," Hill said, referring to an orientation meeting that has been scheduled.

Hill, who professionally manages the dental practice of his partner Dr. Rudolf Isch, told the B.A.R. that he has "incredible wellness outlook about HIV" and said there's "a lot of need out there."

He said that while on the commission, he wants his actions to be "in a direction that will be helpful to people living with AIDS."

In January, both Hill and Isch publicly resigned their co-chair positions on the grand opening committee for Catholic Charities'

Leland Avenue AIDS housing facility, over Catholic Archbishop William Levada's controversial exemption request from San Francisco's domestic partner benefit law. The grand opening was canceled, although the project opened last month. The archbishop, board of supervisors, and mayor eventually worked out a compromise agreement over the domestic partner dispute.

Department of Public Health spokeswoman Eileen Shields said that since the commission's formation in 1985, mayors have adopted an unofficial protocol of having one of the seven commission seats go to an HIV-positive representative.

Hill's first meeting on the commission is expected to be Tuesday, April 8. ▼



Ron Hill

SFAF study: condom usage, not availability, key to safer sex

United Press International

A study by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies says psychological, cultural, and social barriers block men from protecting themselves against HIV.

The study, released Tuesday, March 18 at the AIDS Update Conference in San Francisco, suggests men who engage in unprotected sex often do so because they rely on imprecise clues to guess whether their partners are infected.

The study of 92 men showed that factors such as living condi-

tions, physical appearance, visible HIV medication, and whether he talked about his future are often the determining factors of whether to use condoms.

According to the study, gay and bisexual men in San Francisco are highly educated about HIV and have adopted condoms into their sexual activity, but many find consistent condom use difficult.

MacArthur Flournoy, prevention director of the AIDS Foundation, says, "We must move beyond condom distribution and simple 'use-a-condom-every-time' messages that were once successful but are no longer enough."

Flournoy says the one-year anniversary of the protease inhibitors' approval serves as a reminder that although the new drugs are promising, prevention is the only sure protection against HIV.

Officials with the AIDS Foundation say the results will offer a model for fighting the estimated 40,000 new infections annually nationwide.

The California Department of Health Services says it will likely record the 100,000th AIDS case by the end of this month. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

DPH, supes agree on need for expanded condom distribution

Ask your favorite bartender for a demonstration

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco officials agree the city should have a widespread condom distribution program, and a Thursday, March 13 hearing about making rubbers available at bars ended with members of a supervisors' committee committed to appropriating the funds for the HIV prevention effort in next year's budget.

Supervisor Leslie Katz, who called the hearing, told the *Bay Area Reporter* she will work at allocating as much as \$150,000 in next year's public health budget to expand the program, so that as many as 900,000 condoms could be distributed at hundreds of businesses.

Health officials and Katz emphasized that distributing condoms to bars and clubs throughout the year is not the only means of preventing HIV transmission; however, all agreed at the hearing that having the bars provide prophylactics is "a very important part" of the city's AIDS prevention efforts.

Katz, who has asked the Department of Public Health (DPH) for a widespread condom distribution plan since last October, said she was pleased with the hearing.

"I think we'll see significant movement. There has been a lot

of rhetoric, and at the hearing there were some very good suggestions. Next year's budget is coming up, and I'm more than prepared to see money gets included," Katz told the B.A.R. "The health department is working on a plan, and we're working on getting the money."

Katz was also pleased that city officials, community agencies, and activists were all represented, and were now listening to one another.

Speaker 'astounded'

The DPH estimates 230 bars and clubs in the city serve either a largely gay and bisexual clientele or other groups at high risk for HIV. In July, the Stop AIDS Project will begin a condom distribution program targeting 20 city bars. Advocates of wider latex distribution have pointed to the need for rubbers to be in all the bars every day, and not only during gay pride festivities in June.

At last week's hearing, suggestions were made about other possible sites where condoms could be distributed, including places that could reach queer youth and communities of color.

Some speakers expressed surprise that the topic even had to be addressed in 1997 in San Francisco. Katz herself pointed to cities such as Seattle, Cincinnati, and Washington DC, all of which

have condom programs that target bars in those cities.

Larry Saxon, an aide to Supervisor Amos Brown, asked why Katz has not seemed to get support for the widespread distribution program. He said Katz can expect support from Brown getting the funding for expanded condom distribution.

"Our office is astounded that Supervisor Katz has not gotten the impact [to her proposal], and why there is resistance to providing condoms in San Francisco bars," Saxon said, adding a recent Harvard University survey shows that the HIV infection rate is not abating in the African-American community. "We're concerned there are systemic impediments. In 1997, we shouldn't have to have this discussion."

Norm Nickens, assistant director of the AIDS Office, encouraged the supervisors to establish a broad program that would include outreach and condom distribution to communities of color. Katz and Supervisor Tom Ammiano concurred completely with his statement.

Katz said that an idea brought to her attention after the hearing was the possibility of including hair salons in condom distribution efforts, as has been done successfully to reach the African-American community in South Carolina. She observed that it is

a particularly good way to reach people who don't frequent the bar scene.

Demos in bars?

Ammiano, who started the hearing by announcing, "This is where the rubber hits the road, folks," suggested there could be demonstrations of how to put on a condom at the bars.

"It's allowable under the law. It would have a little erotic appeal, but it would be educational," Ammiano said.

Representatives of the Stop AIDS Project agreed with Ammiano that education as well as condom distribution is important. Steve Gibson with Stop AIDS Project said that in the last five months the agency distributed 50,000 condoms to 60 businesses that serve primarily gay clientele; more than 40 of those were bars in the Castro, South of Market, and Polk neighborhoods.

Some businesses, such as Club Townsend, go through a lot of condoms. When singer Debbie Harry performed, over 6,000 condoms were distributed, Gibson said. During an average weekend, over 2,000 rubbers may be distributed there.

He added that many bar owners see condom distribution as a way they can help prevent HIV, and most want to help. There are

some owners, however, who feel it's not their place to talk about their customers' sex lives, and some view giving out condoms as doing just that. Where the condoms are in the bars also makes a difference. Condoms readily available on the counter are more likely to be taken because the customers don't have to ask for them and the employees don't have to say anything about them.

Todd Swindell of ACT UP/San Francisco said condoms are not currently available in bars and clubs here, and "to get [free] condoms, you have to make an appointment with a nurse."

He added many people, particularly young people, don't feel comfortable talking about the subject.

And that's really one of Katz's main objectives for the city providing free latex all of the time: to make condoms part of the social fabric, so that safer sex will be discussed more openly, and so that after a night of partying, gay or bisexual men who meet can grab a couple of rubbers on their way out the door.

As she said at last week's hearing, if just one case of HIV/AIDS is prevented by spending \$150,000 for widespread condom distribution, the program will have saved the city money; it costs about \$150,000 to treat a person with AIDS. ▼

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Team SF's financial fumble

New board installs corrective changes amid criminal investigation

by Jim Provenzano

The next meeting of Team San Francisco's members, this Sunday, March 23, should be productive — and probably controversial. The organization's new board members will reveal many new plans for the forthcoming Gay Games V in Amsterdam, most of them very encouraging for both athletes and fans.

Unfortunately, they'll also reveal some details of a case of financial mismanagement and the alleged embezzlement of several thousand dollars from the organization's funds.

In a meeting with the *Bay Area Reporter*, new Team SF co-chairs Lisa LeBreque and Marcus Valera revealed their plan to discuss the financial problem openly with Team SF members, within the boundaries of some problematic legal wrangling. Due to an impending investigation, many of the details of the case cannot be revealed, including the identity of the alleged perpetrator, and the amount taken.

Over the course of what may have been the past year, a board member of Team SF allegedly extracted funds from the group's treasury and "inappropriately used Team SF assets for personal use." Team SF was forced to file criminal charges over the allegations.

Due to the incomplete financial statements, it is unclear even to board members how much

money was actually taken.

LeBreque and Valera said that simple trust among board members, common in community-based non-profit organizations, prevented any security measures from being enacted. No one else on the board noticed the discrepancies, since the account books appeared to be accurate.

"It seems like there was an attempt to repay the money before it was found," said LeBreque, "but this person encountered hard times, and couldn't do it, then finally came clean." She stressed that the funds were taken without the consent or knowledge of any other board member.

Systems have now been instituted to prevent a similar situation from happening again, including the computerization of the accounts, and a three-person process of signing checks and handling funds.

Despite the problems, the group is pushing on toward accomplishing the goals of Gay Games, and organized queer athletics in general. "The difficult part is that we are a new board having to make this announcement," said Valera. It is their hope that with a clear stating of the facts, Team SF members and administrators will move toward a resolution.

Other changes

However, according to Team SF's by-laws, the board member who allegedly took the money can-



Left to right, back row: Allen Wood, Hannah Philips, Jim Skiba. Middle: Marcus Valera, Lisa Labrecque. Front: Dave Wagner.

not be removed from the board unless there is a conviction. "It's been confidential up to now," said LeBreque, "basically because we wanted to investigate further before telling our members. With the meeting coming up, this was determined to be the best and earliest opportunity." A letter about the alleged theft, along with the Team SF newsletter, was sent out this week.

This comes in the wake of some other shifts in Team SF. "The male co-chair has been a position in a state of flux," said LeBreque. "We went through two last year; one was voted out, and the other resigned." Mark Brown, elected in January 1996, left after over half a year. He was replaced

by Dave Wagner.

Valera, the new co-chair, hopes to remain in the position for at least the duration of the next Gay Games. "It's certainly challenging," he said. Among the new responsibilities are getting a new website up and overseeing the group's quarterly newsletter, which is mailed to members.

Also, Susan Kennedy only recently stepped down from her nine-year post as co-chair of Team SF. She is currently president of the Federation of Gay Games.

The federation, which maintains Gay Games as an entity, has also seen changes, particularly in adjusting to having a European host for the first time. Although not connected financially or organizationally, Team SF, like many worldwide, is a member organization of the federation, and communicates regularly with federation officials.

"We're a direct link to the federation," LeBreque mentioned. "We go to the annual meetings, participate on committees, and funnel the information that way."

LeBreque earned a gold medal

in figure skating at Gay Games '94. Through her business, LeBreque Publishing, she produced the colorful book *Unity: A Celebration of Gay Games IV and Stonewall 25*, the only publication to document fully all the sports and results of Gay Games IV.

Getting to Europe, and down Market Street

This will be the first time Gay Games will take place out of North America. "We have consistently been the largest sport team at any Gay Games," LeBreque mentioned. For 1994's New York event, Team SF's numbers approached 500.

"Europe's going to be more challenging," said LeBreque. "It's going to be a lot more work. We're going to have to be a lot more creative to get the volume discounts."

One of the announcements is that the San Francisco travel agency Now, Voyager has been selected as the official travel agent for Gay Games '98. Team SF is working to assist athletes and fans who will inevitably plan European trips to other countries before or after Gay Games V. A tentative three-tiered plan is being honed now for people looking to travel luxury, middle class, or economy. Athlete housing will range from dorms and shared housing to more luxury hotel accommodations, for those wishing to splurge.

LeBreque stressed that exceptional discounts will be available for those planning under the group rates — and warned, "Two wholesale travel agents in Europe already bought out most of the other hotel rooms."

Valera mentioned that it would be best if at least one representative from each of the 30 different teams or individual sports were present at each meeting. That way, the diversity of needs and opin-

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Migden's new bills would provide health coverage to gays, expand PWAs' coverage

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Assemblywoman Carole Migden has introduced bills that would extend healthcare coverage to lesbian and gay couples and fully fund the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) for eligible people living with AIDS. The bills are expected to be heard in committees next month. She has also introduced a third bill, to make it easier for PWAs who are in remission to return to the workforce without losing Medi-Cal benefits.

The assemblywoman said the bill that would provide health coverage to lesbian and gay couples is a step toward meeting the need for universal healthcare. "All people should have access to healthcare," she said. "My bill moves toward this goal by eliminating the barriers to healthcare experienced by domestic partners."

Migden, who has long been involved in legislation related to AIDS, including additional funding for the state's ADAP program last year, said it's important that people living with AIDS (PWAs) have access to new drugs and treatments, many of which are

cost prohibitive. The proposed legislation would provide full funding for AIDS drugs to ensure that lives are not shortened as a result of limited access to new medications as they become available.

"If the state doesn't provide full funding for AIDS drugs, the quality of life for people living with AIDS will be endangered, and communities could face huge budget gaps that could leave people without the most effective drugs," Migden said.

Migden's legislation was introduced in late February as three separate bills:

• AB 967 provides for full funding of ADAP, a state program that helps PWAs purchase the new protease inhibitor drugs;

• AB 1099 creates "transition-Medical" for PWAs who are in remission, but who fear returning to the workforce because they would lose their Medi-Cal benefits; and

• AB 1059 requires health insurance companies and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to provide health insurance coverage to lesbian and gay couples. The bill will need to be amended to create a domestic partners registry for the purposes of providing healthcare coverage. ▼

AB101

◀ page 1

University and University of California systems to the Lambda Center, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Delaine Easton, Superintendent of Public Instruction, to the Friends Committee on Legislation of California.

Speaking in opposition, a representative of a religious college attempted to say the bill is a threat to First Amendment freedoms, and Gary Creep, an attorney who successfully opposed the CLAS educational testing two years ago, raised the issue that the bill does not define sexual orientation – and presented the scenario that if the bill passed, somehow a pedophile teacher or student could be protected and exempt from censure. He also expressed fears that the bill will cause a great number of lawsuits, and that it could possibly give sexual orientation minority status.

The Committee on Moral Concerns and the Capitol Resource Institute supported the opposition stance. Assembly-member Debra Bowen, D-Torrence, took Creep on and was in the process of dismantling Creep's arguments – "Is discrimination against anyone an intrusion on your First Amendment right to free speech?" – when the chair, Lampert, intervened and called for the vote.

The atmosphere seemed almost distrustful as committee members wanted "a stake in the ground," i.e., assurances that bill language would be changed on the spot and fine-tuned later. When that was done and the first vote taken, two Democrats playing to their conservative districts – Dennis Cardoza of Turlock and Sally Havice of Artesia – voted no. Their votes, plus abstentions by Los Angeles Democrat Wally Knox and Campbell Republican

Jim Cuneen, put the bill on call. Later, despite Sheldon's passionate hallway entreaties, Cuneen, a moderate Republican, voted yes. He was joined by Knox, and AB 101 passed out of its first committee and is scheduled to be heard in Assembly Education on April 2.

Laurie McBride, Executive Director of LIFE, said, "We are ecstatic at today's outcome; the radical right with all of their rhetoric and misrepresentation of the bill weren't able to prevail, as they did in 1996."

"We're confident that this bill is sound public policy, and in this new climate is finally being recognized as such." ▼

People interested in passage of this bill should write to Kerry Mazzoni, Chair, Assembly Education Committee, State Capitol, Room 3123, Sacramento CA 95814.

Diane Parker

◀ page 1

in local Democratic events, and eventually, she ended up working for Brown.

Rough and tumble world

One thing Parker has noticed about her new boss is his concern for fairness and treating people with respect.

"He tries to get along with everyone. At his businesses he has gay and lesbian employees; I don't think he thought anything about it," Parker said, referring to her being openly lesbian.

Newsom, for his part, said right after his appointment that he was embarrassed by the attention focused on his sexual orientation. "I hope to be known for more than that."

"I'm a complete Affirmative Action candidate," Newsom said last week, referring to the widely reported fact that Brown was looking for a straight white male to fill Shelley's term, which runs through November 1998.

Newsom has already entered the sometimes rough and tumble world of gay politics in the city; he appeared at the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club's February 25 meeting. Although some accounts of the meeting say club members were "underwhelmed" with Newsom, he and Parker insist the meeting went well.

"Gavin was asked a lot of tough questions. But people have called and said they were very impressed," Parker said. "Some people are going to make assumptions, and that isn't fair. But it certainly isn't the first time and won't

be the last."

The new supervisor said he's not about to ignore his political associations or leave them out when he speaks before various groups.

"I was completely relaxed," Newsom said of the Milk Club meeting. "What upset them is my honest response of who I am. I'm not going to lie. John Burton and I don't agree on every issue, but I respect John Burton."

Newsom also said he's learned something in the few weeks he's been a supervisor; there are a lot of meetings with lobbyists.

"I have ten meetings a day, and half of them are with lobbyists. They are so skilled and educated [on their positions], they are able to persuade," Newsom said, adding he's now implemented a policy for those lobbyists; they don't see Newsom until the other side is also represented. ▼

Jerry Coletti

◀ page 1

income statements, prepared fraudulent California and federal tax returns – and then had the income tax refunds mailed to his address.

Coletti allegedly obtained access to some of the social security numbers through his ownership of the Galleon Restaurant. The indictment also names other places of employment, including several temporary employment agencies and other venues where Coletti would have had access to the information while employed as a bookkeeper.

Coletti was an owner of the Galleon during part of the fraud scheme, but that property was seized with his San Francisco residence in the early 1990s. It was sold after a real estate management firm sued Coletti in civil court for embezzeling an estimated \$2.5 million in assets through dummy invoices, altered checks, and other practices, while serving as the firm's bookkeeper.

'A blight on the community'

Coletti made about \$75,000 in the tax fraud scheme, but could have netted \$200,000 if he had not been caught, according to sources. The IRS was tipped off to the

scheme by the volume of refund checks going to Coletti's address.

Coletti used the bank account of Fantastic Realities, a San Francisco business, to cash and disburse 13 of 30 federal refund checks to himself or others.

According to the indictment, Fantastic Realities owner Audrey Joseph, a well-known entertainment promoter in the lesbian and gay community, would also sign checks to Coletti and others from the funds deposited in her account.

Attorney Nanci Clarence told the Bay Area Reporter that Joseph is as much a victim of Coletti's crimes as the men whose identities he used to defraud the federal government.

"Ms. Joseph and her business have been damaged by her association with him," Clarence said. "These kinds of crimes are a blight on the community. The fact that he manipulated all the people around him doubles the tragedy."

Coletti was described by law enforcement sources as "pretty surprised" when he was arrested at his San Carlos residence at 7:30 a.m. by armed Internal Revenue Service agents.

Sources claim that evidence at the trial will also show that Coletti kept a detailed log of his victims.

Coletti faces an estimated eight to 16 months in a federal prison if convicted on the charges. ▼

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CALIFORNIA NEWS

Judge dismisses pot charges against Southern Cal. PWA

United Press International

A Los Angeles Municipal Court judge dismissed drug charges against a person with AIDS Monday, March 17 in what defense attorneys called the first test case of California's voter-approved Proposition 215, which provides for the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Now, lawyers representing 35-year-old defendant Willie Perkins say they are waiting to see if the federal government takes any action in light of Judge Kristie Lousteau's ruling.

Proposition 215 was approved last November by 56 percent of the state's voters, and legalizes the cultivation and use of marijuana when approved by a physician to relieve pain and suffering. But it conflicts

with federal statutes that bar doctors from prescribing the drug.

Perkins had his doctors' approval to use marijuana when he was stopped while walking home last year with a bag of pot.

Deputy City Attorney Jerry Baik says, "This case was dismissed based upon the information that the doctors provided, based upon the spirit of the California law."

Perkins said he's pleased with the judge's decision. "I feel that [for] people who need medical marijuana, it's a necessity for them to take it like any other drug that's prescribed," he said.

Perkins' lawyer, openly gay legal activist John Duran, says the case is the "first test case of a patient" involving Proposition 215. ▼



Karen Oramb

Attorney John Duran

Sacto senior kids in drag fight with the principal of the thing

by Marghe Covino

Four students and a TV camerawoman were arrested during a cross-dressing melee at Sacramento's Bella Vista High School this month.

For a number of years, schools have celebrated "Sadie Hawkins Day" based on the old Li'l Abner cartoon, when girls are supposed to ask boys to a dance. Somehow, over the years, Sadie Hawkins Day has evolved into "Twerp Day" at Bella Vista, featuring a rally and a dance. According to a school official, boys and girls attending the Twerp Dance dress alike, in similar outfits or T-shirts.

However, this year's Twerp Rally, which showed the student

government boys dressed like the girl cheerleaders and drill team, caused school principal Jim Reidt to crack down. According to a school source, the boys' parody of the cheerleaders and drill team was "getting out of hand."

Reidt said the drag act was not the problem, but that the boys' gestures and actions "were getting into some issues that border on harassment."

"We as an educational institution cannot support that," he said.

Reidt banned the cross-dressing routines, and student body president Kendra Baker canceled the rally. "The whole pep rally is based on it [cross-dressing]," Baker said.

News of the cancellation prompted about 200 students to

walk out of the school Tuesday, March 11, at 11 a.m. The students held up traffic on Madison Avenue, a busy main artery, as two dozen sheriff's deputies and California Highway Patrol responded to the scene. Boys in halters and girls in ties performed skits, but students were quickly herded back to the school stadium.

However, when television reporters appeared, students again surged out of the stadium to mug for the cameras. School officials moved the media across the street, and the four uncooperative students and the TV camerawoman were then arrested.

The Twerp Dance was held on Friday evening and was "without incident." ▼

'Adult' newspapers find no fans in Supreme Court

United Press International

The United States Supreme Court has let stand a lower-court ruling upholding California's ban on sales of "adult" printed material from vending machines in public places.

Publishers and distributors of adult newspapers say the cost of having an adult supervise the newsstands would be prohibitive, and the law discriminates against them without furthering a "compelling" state interest.

One of the companies challenging the law, Zack Distributors, estimates it would cost more than \$5.8 million yearly to supervise its 135 newsstands.

Zack and newspaper publishers filed suit against the state law in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles shortly before the law became effective in 1995.

A federal judge at first issued an injunction barring enforcement of the law, saying it inhibited constitutionally protected speech. But after a trial, the judge ruled the other way, saying that the ban on unsupervised sales was not "content-based."

When a federal appeals court affirmed, the companies asked the Supreme Court for review. The justices denied review Monday, March 17 without comment. ▼



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by Mike Salinas

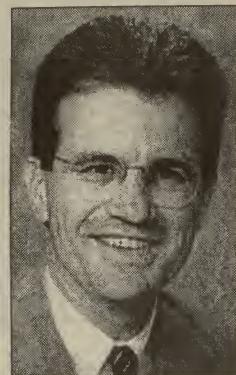
AIDS activists across the country are denouncing a proposal by Republican Congressman Tom Coburn of Oklahoma to create a national reporting system of people with HIV.

In order to force state compliance with his bill, Coburn proposes that federal Medicaid funds be withheld from states that do not implement its provisions. These federal resources, when pooled with state Medicaid funding, finance basic healthcare services for approximately 37 million Americans, including 53 percent of adults and 90 percent of children living with AIDS.

Coburn describes his bill, the so-called HIV Prevention Act of 1997, as "sound medical practice," but experts on the disease disagree.

"In reality, none of the provisions have anything to do with preventing the spread of HIV," said Aimee Berenson, director of government affairs for Washington, DC-based AIDS Action Council. "The only way to prevent people from becoming infected with HIV is to provide them with straightforward information about how HIV is transmitted and how they can modify behaviors that may put them at risk."

"This bill does nothing to address prevention at all. Instead, Representative Coburn is promoting a hodgepodge of coercive



Rep. Tom Coburn

testing-related policies, under the pretense that identifying people who are HIV-positive, in and of itself, will somehow prevent others from being infected."

The San Francisco-based AIDS Legal Referral Panel and the Women's AIDS Network said in a joint statement, "This punitive bill is a collection of long-discarded right-wing attempts to refocus successful HIV prevention efforts toward a political agenda that is about control, coercion, and keeping track of every person infected with HIV. Representative Coburn's legislation is dangerous and absolutely unacceptable to AIDS advocates, women's groups focused on sexual assault, and public health and prevention experts around the

country."

Observing that Coburn also authored last year's bill that mandated testing of newborn infants – and saying that bill "is actually mandatory testing of childbearing women" – ALRP and WAN denounced the new measure as "another mean-spirited mechanism."

Miguelina Maldonado, the director of government relations and policy for the National Minority AIDS Coalition, said, "Contrary to the misleading characterization by its author as a comprehensive proposal to curtail the spread of the virus, the act will, in fact, undermine the best approach to HIV prevention and control developed by experts in public health and healthcare over the last 15 years."

Coburn told reporters that his bill is good for HIV-positive people because it forces them to learn their status as soon as possible, so they can take advantage of new, life-prolonging treatments.

AIDS experts say the public would be better served by Representative Nancy Pelosi's "Comprehensive HIV Prevention Act of 1997." Despite the similar sounding names, the bills are vastly different in their approaches, activists and advocates say, with Pelosi's proposal based on sound HIV prevention techniques learned over the last 15 years of the epidemic.

Pelosi, a San Francisco Democrat, is expected to introduce her bill this week in Congress. ▼

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Police arrest 30 gay activists at New York City St. Patrick's Day parade

United Press International

About 100 demonstrators from the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization blocked the parade route at New York's annual St. Patrick's Day parade Monday, March 17, protesting a ban that prevents them from marching. Thirty demonstrators were arrested for taking part in the protest.

For several years, the Irish

Lesbian and Gay Organization has lobbied for the right to march as a group, something parade organizers have refused to allow. The Ancient Order of Hibernians, which holds the permit for the parade, successfully argued in court that the normally beer-soaked celebration is a "religious procession" of sorts, so they were justified in excluding gay and lesbian marchers.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani marched in the parade again this

year, and defended the exclusion of the gay group by telling the press that those marchers could participate in the annual gay pride celebration instead.

Meanwhile, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino refused to march in that city's St. Patrick's Day parade because organizers have excluded gay groups from taking part. Menino says he made a decision three years ago not to march, and wants to remain consistent. ▼

Supreme Court refuses abortion protest case

by Michael Kirkland, UPI

In a victory for abortion rights advocates, the Supreme Court has refused to review a 36-foot protest-buffer zone protecting a women's clinic in Vallejo, California.

The zone, set up by a judge, keeps protesters across a four-lane highway from the clinic sidewalk.

Three justices, led by Justice Antonin Scalia, vehemently dissented from the court's refusal to review Monday, March 17.

The Supreme Court had withheld action in the California case until it handed down a decision in an upstate New York case last month.

In the February decision, the

Supreme Court ruled 8-1 that a judge's power to protect clinic patients and staff from disruptive protesters is limited.

The court majority said a judge could not set up "floating" buffer zones that kept abortion protesters completely apart from their targets.

But the justices also ruled 6-3 that a 15-foot, fixed protest-buffer zone was constitutional.

In late February, based on the New York decision, the justices summarily threw out rulings that upheld laws preventing disruptive abortion protesters from confronting patients and staff in Phoenix, Ariz., and the state of Colorado.

Scalia, joined by Justices Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas, argued in dissent Mon-

day that the lower-court ruling supporting the judge's protest-buffer zone in the California case also should have been thrown out. All three dissenting judges describe themselves as Roman Catholics.

Scalia says the decision in the New York case "was correct, and today's denial of [review] smiles upon injustice to those [protesters in the California case]. ... I dissent."

Last year Scalia also authored a lengthy and vehement dissent to the Supreme Court's finding in *Romer v. Evans*, which found Colorado's Amendment 2 was an unconstitutional affront to the rights of lesbians and gays. Thomas has never dissented from Scalia during his tenure on the bench. ▼

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The persistence of memory

The naive/memory shift in HIV infection

by Rick Loftus, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Where do T-cells come from? The answer to this question has become increasingly important with the arrival of highly-active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), also called "triple cocktails." Combinations of anti-HIV drugs that include the potent new protease inhibitors have suppressed virus levels in the blood by up to 1000-fold. People on HAART often see improvements in health, including weight gain, alleviation of symptoms of HIV infection, and resolution of various opportunistic infections. HAART also appears to increase short-term survival for people with advanced AIDS.

HAART can also cause helper T-cell counts ("CD4 counts") to go up, sometimes quite dramatically. The average increase, however, seems to be only about 200 points. (Remember that CD4 counts in healthy, HIV-negative people fall in the range of 500-1500 cells per cubic millimeter of blood. Problems with immunity start appearing once CD4 counts fall below 500/mm³. The CDC has defined AIDS to include CD4 counts below 200/mm³, and this is when the risk of serious opportunistic infections is greatest.) If the drugs suppress active HIV re-

production to the point where it's nearly undetectable, why don't CD4 counts recover to normal levels? And does this mean the immune system hasn't really recovered normal function?

The answer to these questions remains a puzzle, but several groups of researchers have turned up evidence that HIV profoundly disrupts the body's system for producing and maintaining T-cell levels. For example, Dr. Mario Roederer of Stanford has published data showing that even in asymptomatic disease, when T-cell levels appear to be holding relatively steady, the proportion of cells that are "naive" (freshly made by the body) goes down dramatically. The naive cells are squeezed out by older "memory" cells.

This naive/memory T-cell shift points to a severe alteration in how the body makes and maintains T-cell counts. If we better understand these disruptions, we may be able to find treatments to bring counts back up to normal levels. To understand the problem, we have to start with the thymus.

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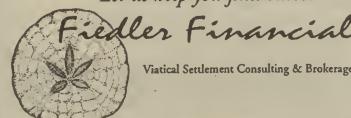
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— Carole Fiedler



Representation of CD4 and CD8 T-cells in whole blood*

Fraction of T-cells that are naive (interquartile range [percentages] in parentheses):

	HIV+	200-500	>500	HIV-
Cells:	0-200	200-500	>500	HIV-
CD8:	12 (7-18)	16 (11-24)	23 (16-33)	52 (41-59)

*From Roederer M., et al.: "CD8 Naive T-Cell Counts Decrease Progressively in HIV-Infected Adults," *J. Clin. Invest.* 1995; 95:2061-6.

The cells that will grow up to be mature T-cells must leave their home in the bone marrow and travel to an organ called the thymus ("T" stands for "thymus"). The thymus is like a schoolhouse for T-cells. Shaped like an upside-down "V", the thymus sits in the chest, over the heart and just under the breastbone. In infants and children, it is very large, covering most of the upper chest cavity. In adults, however, the thymus is much smaller, about the size of a small child's fist.

Once in the thymus, the "pre-T-cells" are "trained" by the thymus to recognize foreign invaders. T-cells that fail this test are killed off (this is a lot tougher than kindergarten!). In a second test, T-cells must show that they will not attack the body's own tissues. T-cells that fail this test are also killed. The few T-cells that pass these tests are released into the blood. There are two types: CD4 (helper) T-cells are like the generals of the immune system, recognizing foreign invaders and giving orders to other immune cells to destroy the infections. CD8 (killer) T-cells are like hand-to-hand combat soldiers. Like most other immune cells, they take orders from the CD4 cells.

Let's continue the military metaphor. If our immune system is like an army, and CD4 cells are like the generals of the army, then the thymus is like our military academy. When CD4 and CD8 cells are released from the academy, they are rookies: fully trained, but not having seen any action. They are "naive."

Each T-cell has been trained to recognize one specific target. They circulate the body looking for this target, and if they see it, they become "activated." A cell on "active duty" will make more copies of itself, and these copies fight off the invader. Some of the copies hang around after the action is over. These "veterans" on "reserve duty" have seen action, and wait around in case the enemy shows up again. These veterans are "memory" T-cells.

The production of fresh recruits for our immune "army" is obviously very important, especially if cells are getting killed off by an enemy like HIV. Remember that each T-cell is trained for a specific target. Think of it this way: Suppose we're fighting a war in Europe. We want some generals who can speak Italian, some who can speak French, others German — we never know what enemy we might have to fight next, so we need a little of everything. We make sure that in each class graduating from our academy, we have rookies that speak all of the different languages.



Now, let's say that in the course of ravaging our T-cells, HIV kills off all of the cells that fight a particular infection. Think of an army, fighting in Germany, that has lost all its German-speaking generals. The army is in big trouble — unless some "naive" German-speaking rookies come in. They can replace the German-speaking commanders who were killed off, and the army can keep fighting. Naive cells may serve as fresh recruits to replace memory cells lost in action.

Thymus function in adults

The thymus is very active in children, pumping out an estimated billion naive T-cells per day. This makes sense, since children are building up an immune system from scratch. Kids get all kinds of "childhood" diseases, like chicken pox. Adults, having encountered chicken pox before, have memory cells that fight off the chicken pox virus and keep them from getting a full-blown infection. Their "veteran" memory T-cells are on patrol.

Until recently, there was a consensus that the thymus did not function in adults. Adults who have their thymuses removed do not become immune deficient, for example. In other experiments, thymic tissue from adult mice did not restore immune function when transplanted into immune-deficient mice, suggesting that tissue from adult animals is not functional.

There is some evidence, however, that the thymus does continue some level of function in at least some adults. In adult mice, the thymus produces about a tenth of the naive cells, proportionally, that it produces in young mice. In humans, active production of T-cells has been documented by tissue studies of thymus taken from even older adults. Also, in some adult cancer patients, when immune

cells are wiped out by chemotherapy, there is evidence of "thymic rebound," with dramatic growth of thymus tissue.

Many mechanisms have been discovered by which HIV disrupts thymus function, including killing off T-cells in training by direct or indirect methods. HIV can infect and destroy pre-T-cells and mature rookie cells in the thymus. There is also evidence for destruction of uninfected cells.

It may be that disruption of thymus function by HIV causes the loss of naive cells seen in HIV+ adults. In HIV-negative adults, about 50% of the T-cells in the blood are naive. In HIV+ adults, this percentage drops for both the CD4 and CD8 cells (see table). If the thymus is indeed damaged by HIV, as this naive/memory shift suggests, then it might explain why T-cell counts don't fully recover after HAART therapy.

At the Gladstone Institute at UCSF, Dr. Mike McCune is leading a study of thymus function in HIV-positive adults. Dr. McCune's group is also looking at naive/memory T-cell levels in the blood. To date, the data suggest that higher thymus mass, as measured by CT scans, correlates with higher T-cell counts and a higher proportion of naive CD4 and CD8 cells.

If thymus can be shown to have an important role in replenishing T-cell counts devastated by HIV, and if some HIV+ adults have lost this function, there may be ways to overcome this. Hormones derived from thymus, such as thymosin-alpha or thymopentin, have been studied for HIV since the mid-1980s, with modest effects on T-cell counts. Perhaps when combined with HAART, those treatments will show greater effects. More exotic strategies include thymus transplants, which are being investigated by researchers at Duke University, the University of Vermont, and Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney, Australia. ▀

ACTION UPdate

Call Glaxo-Wellcome! Demand 1592!

Glaxo-Wellcome's promising new anti-HIV drug 1592, also called "abacavir," is a nucleoside analogue (in the same class as AZT). Despite repeated demands, Glaxo-Wellcome has refused to provide 1592 through an expanded access program until summer. Unfortunately, there are people who need the drug now. A pediatric formulation will be released on expanded access soon, but adults must wait.

Please call or fax Glaxo-Wellcome and ask them to open an expanded access program today for adults who have failed other treatment options. Call President & CEO Robert Ingram, 919-248-2100; Dr. Robert Bell, VP Research, fax 919-483-6150; Mike Hamilton, Director of Marketing, fax 919-315-0421; Stephen Lafon, Associate Director, Antiviral Clinical Research, phone 919-483-1346, fax 919-315-0377.

HEALTH NEWS

Fourth protease approved, priced high

by Bob Roehr

Nelfinavir became the fourth protease inhibitor approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on March 14. Agouron Pharmaceuticals of La Jolla, California announced it will market the drug under the trade name Viracept, with a wholesale price of \$5,650 per year. Distribution and retailing expenses will boost its retail price by as much as a third.

AIDS activists applauded the approval but condemned the price.

David Millstein, with ACT UP/Golden Gate, has been the "principal point person" in working with Agouron for more than two years. Last December, when the company filed for approval of the drug with the FDA, he called and asked what they anticipated as a price.

"David, you will be surprised," he recalls Agouron spokesperson

Donna Nichols assuring him. But Millstein pressed, "Are you saying that Viracept will be competitive?"

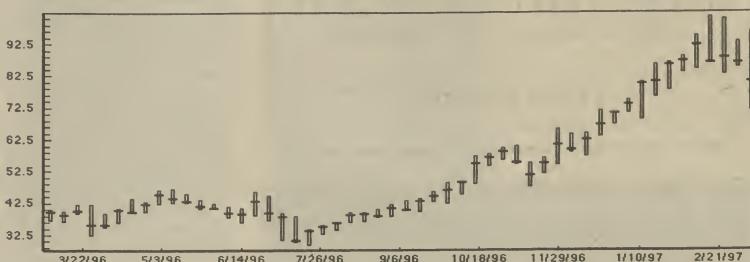
"Yes," she responded, "we will price our drug competitive with Crixivan."

The wholesale price of Viracept is 28 percent higher than the \$4,400 annual wholesale price of Crixivan. Nichols told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "We are not sorry about that" price differential, because they believe their drug is better.

"It's price gouging," said Brenda Lein, director of information and advocacy with Project Inform in San Francisco. "We were hoping that Agouron would price their drug more fairly."

Agouron's stock price, which recently had been trading as low as \$20, soared to \$96 per share. "They are making money hand over fist even before they get the drug into the pharmacies," said Millstein.

The FDA announcement was significant for other reasons. It is



As the price of protease inhibitors keeps rising, so does Agouron's stock.

the first protease approved with a pediatric formulation, though a children's version of ritonavir (Norvir) was also approved on the same day.

Lein is "very pleased that there is another protease in the arsenal, especially one with a slightly different resistance profile." She believes that for many people it will be easier to take, and the major side effect of diarrhea is often

controlled with over-the-counter medications.

The Treatment Action Group (TAG) in New York is concerned that the FDA did not hold a public hearing on nelfinavir before granting approval. Founding director Peter Staley believes the "FDA has set an unfortunate precedent by sacrificing this important public discussion."

He called those forums "an in-

dispensable opportunity for researchers and patients advocates to carefully weigh the available information about the product and to offer suggestions about labeling that will assist patients and physicians."

Lein concurred with that judgment but also noted that the drug would not have been approved as quickly if the FDA had waited to conduct a public hearing. ▼

AIDS Office clarifies procedure for free viral load tests through clinics

by Cynthia Laird

The free viral load test program Chiron Corporation established in January for city residents without adequate insurance or finances is taking place in San Francisco, but an initial problem with advertising may have led some to believe the tests were not available, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

AIDS Office Director Dr. Mitch Katz said Monday, March 17 that the problem was corrected several weeks ago. A spokesman for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) told the

B.A.R. that people can receive the tests once they've accessed the Department of Public Health (DPH) Clinic HIV System.

The viral load tests are provided through San Francisco General Hospital and the DPH's neighborhood health clinics, including District Health Center Number One in the Castro. SFAF, ACT UP/Golden Gate, and other AIDS community groups were instrumental in getting Chiron and Roche Molecular Systems to offer viral load tests free for those who cannot afford them. San Francisco is just one of several cities where the programs are taking place.

"A person needs to make an

appointment with a doctor or nurse practitioner. If that person is indigent and a viral load test is called for, the test is paid for," Katz said. "We should have said [in earlier announcements] call and get an appointment."

Katz said he met with SFAF officials about five weeks ago to clear up any confusion. Some people had said they would call health centers inquiring about the free viral load tests, and receptionists wouldn't know about them. Katz said that is the case, since Chiron is simply reimbursing the city every few months and it's not a separate program of the health department.

For those who have tested positive for HIV and want a viral load test but have no insurance or a doctor, Katz said the city will provide them with a doctor, who in turn will order the viral load tests and any other lab work necessary. The city will cover all costs, he added.

"The health clinics all have sliding scales that slide to zero," Katz said. "We provide for everyone."

Timothy Rodrigues, with SFAF, said when people call the toll free number the foundation set up for the program, they are connected with the SFAF's hotline and referred to the city's Clinic HIV System.

"Phone volunteers will walk

people through the process," Rodrigues said. "People can call the toll free number or call the clinics and make an appointment."

Katz explained that there is no limit to the number of viral load tests a person can have. "The clinician can order as many times as needed."

The city's public health system provides services to over 95 percent of indigent residents, he added.

In a related matter, Rodrigues said that currently, there is no waiting list for protease inhibitors in the city for those who cannot afford them. In contrast, there are 3,000 people on the CHIPS waiting list for AIDS housing services. ▼

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ACTG 325

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Study Requirements:

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- Stable on Antiretroviral Therapy for 8 weeks.
- No MAC or CMV Diagnosis.
- There are other restrictions, call for details

\$320 for completion of study

For more information call Carol Arri, RN at (415) 476-9296 x351

ACTG329

A New Study for Women with HIV Wasting Using Nandrolone

Study Requirements:

- At least 5% weight loss.
- There are other restrictions, call for information.

\$220 for completion of study

For more information call Carol Arri, RN at (415) 476-9296 x351

ACTG 313

A New Study for HIV Wasting Using Testosterone and Megace

Study Requirements:

- At least 10% weight loss
- There are other restrictions, call for details.

\$220 for completion of study

For more information call Carol Arri, RN at (415) 476-9296 x351

ACTG 301

New Drug for AIDS Dementia Testing Memantine

Study Requirements:

- Diagnosis of AIDS Dementia Complex stage I, II or III.
- No other serious neurological diseases.
- There are other restrictions, call for details.

For more information call Kathy Dybeck, RN at 476-9296 x353 or call Sue Forstat, LVN (UCSF Med. Center, 476-3226)

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OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Leland Scott Davis
Oct. 10, 1963 – March 9, 1997

Leland Scott Davis died on March 9 due to complications from AIDS in Springfield, Mo., surrounded by his loving family. Leland, known as Scott to his family and friends, was born in West Memphis, Ark., and raised in Marked Tree, Ark., and Springfield, Mo. Scott moved to the Bay Area in 1989, living in San Jose and Marin County before finally settling in San Francisco's Castro District.

Scott worked for over a decade for the federal courts, first in Missouri and later in California, last serving as case service manager for Judge Claudia Wilken of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit in Oakland, until his early retirement in June 1996.

Scott was a charmer, witty and a gracious Southerner. He was passionate about home decorating, his friendships, his faith and adored his two cats, Elvis and Tango.

Scott will be deeply missed by his many friends from Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, especially Janet Sussman, Dan Findley and Marc Levin. He is survived by his large Missouri family, in particular his devoted mother, Betty Sneed; his brother, Gary; sister, Bobbie Jean; niece, Crystal; and nephew, Jesse.

It's time for the Lord to beam you up, Scotty! Rest in peace and sleep in the arms of angels.

Grant served his country in the Army during World War II and was awarded three battle stars and five decorations for bravery in action, including the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

He was employed by several architectural firms in San Francisco from 1957 to 1992. He wrote the specifications for the SF Federal Building; later he worked as a team member to design and develop the BART system. For

many years he belonged to the Construction Specifications Institute and served it in many capacities, including director, first vice president and presi-

**Robert Yaryan**

Robert Yaryan, retired Chairman of the Art Department of Holy Names College of Oakland, died at his home on 10 February 1997 of natural causes. He was 73.

Mr. Yaryan was one of the foremost ceramic artists and miniaturist of the Bay Area. He was a charter member of the San Francisco Potters Association, and spent most of his professional career associated with Holy Names College where he served as Director of its Kennedy Gallery. Mr. Yaryan retired as chair from Holy Names in 1989. Mr. Yaryan was born in Carthage, Missouri in 1923, the son of Dessa and Ross Yaryan. He and his family moved to California, arriving in the state on December 7, 1941. In 1943, Rob enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Burma and China building the Burma Road. After his deactivation, he enrolled in the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, where he obtained his bachelors and masters degrees.

It was during his college years that Mr. Yaryan's identity as a gay man was clearly established.

He went on to teach art and crafts at Studio One in the early 1950s. From there he went to Midwestern University in Wichita Falls in 1953.

His work there was exhibited widely, and he took honors in many juried shows. During this time his work began to be recognized, and continues to be represented in many public and private collections throughout the country. In 1961 he returned to the Bay Area, and became the Arts and Crafts director at the Presidio of San Francisco after which he began a twenty-five year career with Holy Names College.

After his retirement, Mr. Yaryan became actively involved in miniatures, working in the standard scale of one inch to one foot. He created a number of room boxes, outdoor scenes, vignettes, including his "Attic Bedroom for a College Student" and "Gallery of the Forgotten Gods". His work has been displayed at a number of locations.

His work in ceramics was celebrated by a retrospective in 1983 at the Holy Names Gallery. Pieces that he created have been exhibited at the Oakland Museum of Art, the DeYoung Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and other venues.

He is survived by numerous close friends and playmates and his sister and her family in Lodi, who will remember him with a great deal of love.

For more information please contact Paul Dalwigk at 832-8084.

Steven G. Henry
Dec. 8, 1950 – Feb. 20, 1997



With dignity, and in the presence of family, Steve Henry passed peacefully away early February 20. He was 46.

Born and raised in Iowa, Steve sailed through high school, then attended the University of Nebraska, Metro State in Denver and San Francisco State University, where he completed his degree in computer science.

Tall, handsome and intellectually gifted, Steve found the lure of bigger cities irresistible, moving first to Denver for eight years, then to his beloved mecca, San Francisco, in 1982.

While working as a computer analyst/programmer for PG&E, Steve became an active patron and supporter of the opera, symphony and ballet. He traveled regularly and was particularly fond of Venice, Italy.

Diagnosed with AIDS in the early 1990s, Steve bravely availed himself of the latest treatments and confidently maintained a high quality of life to the end. He was a member of several support groups, where his warmth and compassion were of benefit to all.

Steve will be remembered for his wit and generosity, but most of all for his sense of humor. His hearty laugh brought joy to everyone. He is survived by his parents, three sisters, a brother, and many friends who are forever enriched for having known him.

Grant A. Larsen
1923 – 1997

Born in Provo, Utah, Grant earned a B.S. in mathematics and business at Brigham Young University and a graduate degree in architecture and city planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Grant served his country in the Army during World War II and was awarded three battle stars and five decorations for bravery in action, including the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

He was employed by several architectural firms in San Francisco from 1957 to 1992. He wrote the specifications for the SF Federal Building; later he worked as a team member to design and develop the BART system. For

dent.

Grant made a substantial financial contribution to the Gay and Lesbian Center at the new San Francisco Public Library.

He is survived by one sister and two brothers, all of Utah; 19 nieces and nephews; and many friends and colleagues here in the Bay Area.

He died quietly at his home in San Francisco after a long and difficult struggle with alcoholism.

Leslie Cooper Ross
1955 – 1997

Years ago sitting with her autumn was here/You and I knowing autumn does/lt uses my friend's death as a tree of gesture/Free at last I break that wine-glass/Thanking the soil that brought spring about/New flowers to bloom/Faces tear-stained because the soil of spring lacks death of my friend and remembrance of her runs rapidly...free

Mark H. Stephens
May 1, 1947 – March 1, 1997

Mark Stephens was born in Livermore, Calif., to Elizabeth Anne (Hamm) and James M. Stephens. Mark's parents and his half brother, James Stephens Jr., preceded him in death.

Mark graduated from the University of Oregon with a B.A. in 1969; he earned his M.A. from the University of South Dakota in 1974. He returned to San Francisco in 1979. In 1982, he and his friend, Paul Bang, founded Steban Inc. Mark served as president of this company for 12 years, and in testament to his business talent and managerial ability, Steban Inc. is now a dynamic, growing and very successful business.

Mark will be missed as he was much loved, especially by his two best friends, Baby and Bruce, who were by his side until it was time for him to move on. He is survived by his daughter, Erin Stephens; son, Kirk Stephens; brother, Doug Stephens; former wife, Lynn Stephens; and many friends.

The family wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude for your prayers and support. A gathering to celebrate Mark's life will be held at Uncle Bert's Place, 4086 18th St., on Thursday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Sex reg's

◀ page 16

cerns with individual liberties in an ongoing public dialog."

Attendees at the March 11 meeting also discussed redefining the goals and objectives of the CHS in view of the strong sentiments expressed by members of the gay community opposed to enforced monitoring and in favor of prevention education.

In related news, the *Bay Area Reporter* has been informed that Chief Building Inspector Rafael Torres-Gil – who was accused of making homophobic remarks during an inspection of the Power Exchange Main Station in November – has been removed from the sex club inspection team. His replacement is reportedly Carla Johnson, a lesbian who works with the city's disabled access division. ▼

A forum on sex clubs and bathhouses sponsored by Supervisor Tom Ammiano and the Harvey Milk Club will be held March 25 at the Women's Building. The Coalition for Healthy Sex meets the second Tuesday of each month. LGBT Advisory Committees are held the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at 25 Van Ness; the sex club issue will be considered again on May 20.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Don Slater dies at 76

by Dennis Conkin

Homophile civil rights pioneer Don Slater left more than 300 boxes of books, artifacts, and other materials for the University of Southern California when he died last month at 76, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned. Slater died February 14 of a longstanding heart valve infection.

A USC Library Sciences graduate, Slater helped found *One*, the nation's first openly distributed homosexual magazine, according to gay historian Jim Kepner.

The magazine successfully

sued the federal government in the U.S. Supreme Court after the postal service ruled the publication obscene in 1954 and attempted to prohibit its distribution through the U.S. mail.

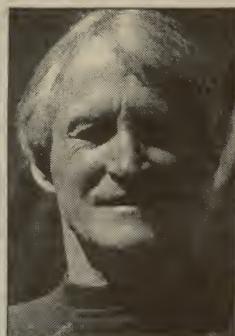
In an historic 1965 power struggle with One Inc.'s Dorr Legg over the direction of the group and the publication, Slater cleaned out One's offices, dismissed trustees, and moved the publication into new quarters, but was eventually forced to change the publication's name to *Tangents*, which continued to publish until last November, according to Kepner.

Slater was a key organizer of

the 1966 National Conference of Homophile Organizations and led early protests against U.S. military policies excluding gays from service, Kepner said.

But in a succinct and eloquent obituary, Kepner said that like many other '50s era activists, Slater had peculiar views about his homosexual orientation and thought the word "gay" [was] a cop-out.

"He said that public 'coming out' was 'parading our perversion before the public.' Many early activists considered homosexuality a perversion, but argued that since Kinsey showed that most men engaged in some kind of



Jim Kepner

perverted sex, we had a right to privacy — as long as we drew our blinds," Kepner recalled.

"When we picketed Barney's Beanery in West Hollywood protesting the 'Faggots Stay Out' sign, Don counter-picketed, supporting the owner's right to choose his customers," Kepner said.

But despite his personal eccentricities and conservatism, Slater's contributions to the homophile movement are important and will be remembered.

"If you had to pick one of the 12 founders of the gay liberation movement in North America, Don would be one of them," said longtime activist and septuagenarian Hal Call of San Francisco. ▼

JARS II: there may be sharks out there

LA-based 'Essential AIDS' fails to prove nonprofit status

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco's AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) filed a formal complaint with the state Attorney General's office Friday, March 14 concerning the operation calling itself "Essential AIDS, Inc." That self-described nonprofit group from Los Angeles has been distributing coin collection containers throughout San Francisco in a program similar to AEF's, but has yet to offer proof of an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) letter verifying its tax-exempt status.

On Thursday, San Francisco police briefly detained a woman attempting to distribute Essential AIDS coin boxes and confiscated

a list of about 160 city businesses targeted to receive the containers, according to AEF Director of Income Development Joan Juster. Juster had filed a suspected fraud report with police last week and brought an Essential AIDS coin container for them to examine.

Essential AIDS uses the slogan, "Every penny helps in the fight against AIDS," which is very similar to AEF's successful "Every penny counts" slogan. Juster became concerned after seeing the containers in corner grocery stores and realizing people may confuse the Essential AIDS displays with AEF's coin jars. She made several phone calls, and seriously questioned whether it was a legitimate nonprofit organization.

tion.

Juster said she's talked with people named Lana and David who have answered the phone number given for Essential AIDS. They apparently received a copy of Juster's police report and insisted to her that they are a legitimate group. They have not furnished proof, however.

The *Bay Area Reporter* also contacted Essential AIDS on Tuesday, March 18. A man who identified himself only as Alex said the B.A.R. "didn't have the authority" to see its IRS tax-exempt letter.

"We are a nonprofit organization. Who are you?" he asked. "We're only getting calls from San

Francisco."

Nonprofit agencies routinely distribute copies of the tax-exempt letter to numerous organizations, foundations, and potential donors, Juster told the B.A.R. "It's the first thing you're taught in fundraising."

Community awareness

AEF has raised millions of dollars from its coin jars throughout San Francisco and other Bay Area cities since it was formed in 1987. It returns about 90 cents of every dollar it receives in the form of direct cash assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Juster said people in the com-

munity are paying attention, and AEF has received comments from people about the apparent scam.

"The awareness is out there," she said.

Jerry Ansel of AIDS Project Los Angeles told the B.A.R. that his group has heard of Essential AIDS displaying coin containers in LA, and said APLA would bring the matter to the attention of local authorities. Ansel said groups that solicit money in Los Angeles must be registered with the charities section of the Los Angeles Police Department and display the card on each fundraising container.

"To our knowledge, that's not displayed on their boxes," he said. ▼

Cinci anti-gay law in court

United Press International

AS Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel in Cincinnati heard arguments Wednesday, March 19 concerning the constitutionality of Cincinnati's Issue 3 — the last anti-gay initiative remaining anywhere in the nation. The November 1993 charter amendment, approved by 62 percent of Cincinnati's voters, made it illegal for the city to offer legal protections to gay, lesbian, and bisexual citizens.

Judge S. Arthur Spiegel ruled Issue 3 was unconstitutionally vague and violated the First and 14th amendments guaranteeing civil rights to all citizens. The city appealed Spiegel's ruling, but the judges upheld the lower court's ruling.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a similar measure from Colorado, and ordered the appellate court to reconsider the Cincinnati case in light of its decision in the Colorado case. ▼

UCSF Treatment Trial for Painful HIV Neuropathy

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Neo-porn

by Jim Provenzano

Men's Workout, while possibly one of the lamest of workout periodicals, at least deserves credit for visually acknowledging the fact that most, if not all, readers of exercise mags are fags.

While Men's Fitness, Men's Health and their 'roider counterparts, Muscle & Fitness, Iron Man, etc., dodge the homo angle at every available point, including sex articles that usually amount to "How To Pick Up Babes," Men's Workout, the latest and obvious rip-off of the genre, uses as their work-out models the same guys who show off their cocks and butts doing what cum naturally in your favorite porn videos. This I find to be a truly subversive act.

Although mastheads (those pages that tell you who publishes the thing you're reading; that's where you all can find out how to write me fan letters, my dear readers, since I don't do the Internet thang) may be fictive in this realm, we can bet that Men's Workout is financially related to porn as well, or in the words of an astute friend who found employment in both industries, "Duh!"

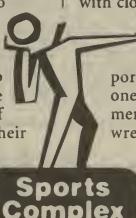
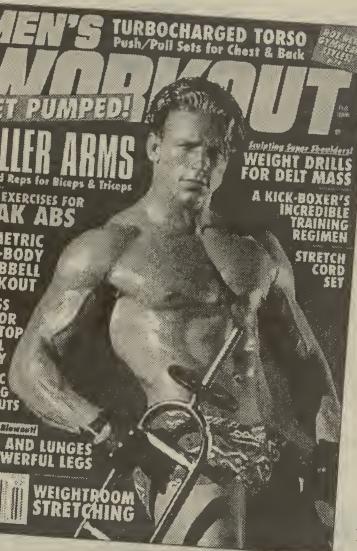
Men's Workout's subtext is subtle as an Angelina billboard. Get the buns of a Colt Model!

Pump along with Lex Baldwin! If you really want to fuck your boyfriend with all the skill of these human oil derricks, then you'd better work on your abs their way!

Of course the porn performers think they are breaking out into what they tell themselves is merely another form of "modeling," the form with clothes. (You'll excuse my relinquishing the term porn "stars," since one of the fave members of our wrestling team, a terrific professional actor, took umbrage

with the term. I have since rectified my vocabulary. My post-porn and present-porn pals concur. Porn performer is more accurate, since, like trained seals, the tasks are limited and specific.)

But as to the athletic skills of porn performers, Men's Workout fills a hole, as it were, in the market. Having always wondered how Marco "when will he ever bottom" Rossi got those gorgeous gluts, readers are treated to the intricate steps the porn performer (using yet another nom de porn) utilizes to keep his physique in camera-ready proportions. And while some may guffaw at the blatant hypocrisy of



Mr. Rossi mentioning how he loves performing for Ladies Night as a stripper, when most of us have documented proof of him being rimmed and finger-fucked by Zack Spears, as well as enjoying the male genitalia of many, the magazine fulfills the category of supermarket neo-porn, and wins high marks as simultaneously cheap erotic attraction and self-conscious disposable camp.

This crossing of borders between the fictive eroticism of the remarkable video *Jockoholics*, Men's Workout and the like, and real athletics, is the point of it all.

Athletics allows a continued

neotony ("I don't wanna grow up") in our paradoxically "Be a man yet act like a boy" culture. Grown men are allowed to play with each other for a living. Like prison, being on a team also includes heterosexual guys considering, or being asked to consider, homosexual activity as part of their lives.

This can be re-erected in real-life athletics as well.

An October 16, 1986 *Chicago Sun-Times* article, which has been cluttering up my favorite clip-

pings pile for years, awaiting my rise to this very soapbox, is about then-new Chicago Bears player Doug Flutie, whose handsome looks and tight butt interested even me back in his, and my, college days. Although very short for football standards, Mr. Flutie was highly accomplished, for a time.

The article states the obvious, and makes me hope Mr. Flutie adjusted to a life of pro balling. It asks, "And how will Flutie get along with his new teammates?" A veteran Chicago Bear, Otis Wilson, answers, "We got a lot of characters in this locker room. If he's a straight, tight guy, he's gonna be in for a long year. We're gonna loosen his ass up."

Hopefully, more informed readers will share any photos, as well as information about Mister Flutie's current status, and the condition of his ass. ▼

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Volleyballers spike for life

by Jim Provenzano

Get to Berkeley next weekend, volleyball fans. Spike! '97, a volleyball tournament for AIDS relief, is hoping to raise some cash for PWAs next weekend.

This NAGVA (National American Gay Volleyball Association) -sanctioned tournament will include players in the men's AA, A, BB, and B divisions. All proceeds will go to AIDS Benefits Counselors of San Francisco, a non-profit organization that provides support services for PWAs.

Many teams will be arriving from other areas, so there should be a lot of volleyball enthusiasts in town.

The event — or its identical twin, whose name is owned by the AIDS Foundation now — has

raised over \$60,000 over the last three years for AIDS organizations.

Other events will be taking place throughout the weekend for participating athletes, each of whom is expected to raise at least \$75 to participate. Included in the activities will be team and raffle prizes.

The volleyball action takes place from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30 at the UC Berkeley Recreational Sports Facility, located at 2301 Bancroft Way in Berkeley.

Up to 36 teams will be competing, including the popular San Francisco groups that regularly practice at Eureka Valley Community Center every Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Castro Volleyball Club practices Sunday evenings. ▼

Team SF

◀ page 20

ions could be better met.

Future Team SF plans include participation in the SFLGBTTPCC — otherwise known as the Pride March — on Sunday, June 29. With the application deadline of May 2 approaching, all Team SF members who would like to march in the athletic contingent, which stands to be one of this year's largest groups, should attend the meeting. Teams and individuals planning to compete at Gay Games V August 1998 in Amsterdam need to make plans.

With so much going on, is the group ready for another such administrative and logistic burden? "I think we're right on target,

time-wise," said LeBreque. "We're definitely ahead of where we were for New York." ▼

The Team SF general membership will meet this Sunday at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center on Collingwood at 18th Street, next to the Cala Foods in the Castro. For more information on the meeting, call (415) 522-2386. For more information on volunteering, call any of the committees:

Membership/Outreach (415) 673-0894;
Uniforms/Merchandise (415) 563-0577; Publicity/Newsletter (415) 641-5392; Travel/Housing (415) 626-2598; Fundraising (707) 645-8795.

Pre-Registration opens for Gay Games V

Pre-Registration forms are available at the touch of a website button, now that Gay Games V in Amsterdam has its website open at <http://www.dds.nl/~gaygames/>. Those not online can call (415) 522-2386 to have an application sent by mail. Registration fees are \$50 (U.S.) per person. Sports teams must send their registrations as a complete team.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211523

The following person(s) are doing business as RUNWAY, 535 Stockton St. #84, San Francisco, CA 94108; Joy Johnson, 535 Stockton St. #84, San Francisco, CA 94108; Robert Radosta, 96 Museum Way, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Joy Johnson and Robert Radosta. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 14, 1997.

Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211457

The following person(s) are doing business as ABOVE AND BEYOND PAINTING, 173 Anderson St., San Francisco, CA 94110; Alison M. Heather, 173 Anderson St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Alison Heather. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 12, 1997.

Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211400

The following person(s) are doing business as THE BLUE PINECONE, 1214 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94131-1822; Mark Richard Jawgial, 1214 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94131-1822. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 11, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Mark R. Jawgial. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 11, 1997.

Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 984826

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of KRISTEN MICHELLE CAMERON for change of name. The application of KRISTEN MICHELLE CAMERON for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that KRISTEN MICHELLE CAMERON has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to KRISTEN MICHELLE CAMERON PEACE. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 2nd day of June, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 21th day of February, 1997.

Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 984827

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of WAYNE THOMAS PEACE DAVIS for change of name. The application of WAYNE THOMAS PEACE DAVIS for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that WAYNE THOMAS PEACE DAVIS has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to WAYNE THOMAS CAMERON PEACE. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 2nd day of June, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 21th day of February, 1997.

Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 984849

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of PAULI CHEN BY YI FENG CHEN (FIVER) for change of name. The application of PAULI CHEN for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that PAULI CHEN has filed an application proposing that HIS name be

changed to MICHEAL CHEN. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 8th day of April, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 20th day of February, 1997.

Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211804

The following person(s) are doing business as THE JEWEL THEATRE, 655 Geary St., San Francisco, CA 94102; Nathaniel Frederick Roberts, 1420 Shadrer St., San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Nathaniel F. Roberts. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 15, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211866

The following person(s) are doing business as MONSEN MEDIA, 557 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114; Maren Monsen, 557 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 27, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Maren R. Monsen. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 27, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211264

The following person(s) are doing business as SUBSET INC., 21 Columbus Ave., Ste 204, San Francisco, CA 94111-2101; Subset Inc., (CA), 21 Columbus Ave., Ste 204, San Francisco, CA 94111-2101. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 23, 1995. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Stewart McKenzie. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 18, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211263

The following person(s) are doing business as SUBSET INC., 21 Columbus Ave., Ste 204, San Francisco, CA 94111-2101; Subset Inc., (CA), 21 Columbus Ave., Ste 204, San Francisco, CA 94111-2101. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Stewart McKenzie. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 13, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211830

The following person(s) are doing business as OUR TOWN, 49 Carl St., San Francisco, CA 94117-3917; Peter Mikkel Lundberg, 49 Carl St., San Francisco, CA 94117-3917. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 26, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Peter M. Lundberg. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 26, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211831

The following person(s) are doing business as HOWARD'S SHOES FOR CHILDREN, Stonestown Galleria, 3251 20th Ave #149, San Francisco, CA 94132; Thomas Howard, Howard's Shoes For Children (CA), 187 Stanford Shopping Ctr., Palo Alto, CA 94034. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed T. Howard (V.P.). This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 21, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211701

The following person(s) are doing business as HOWARD'S SHOES FOR CHILDREN, Stonestown Galleria, 3251 20th Ave #149, San Francisco, CA 94132; Thomas Howard, Howard's Shoes For Children (CA), 187 Stanford Shopping Ctr., Palo Alto, CA 94034. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed T. Howard (V.P.). This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 21, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211731

The following person(s) are doing business as SPECKLED EGG DESIGNS, 4221 20th St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94114; Arthur Scappaticci, 4221 20th St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94114; Mario Valdez, 4221 20th St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by

co-partners. Signed Arthur Scappaticci. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 21, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 211782

The following person(s) are doing business as O'CONNORS, 2629 San Bruno Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134; Kenneth P. Brown, 3215 Cambry Rd., Antioch, CA 94509; Carolyn S. Brown, 3215 Cambry Rd., Antioch, CA 94509. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 21, 1997. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed Kenneth P. Brown. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 25, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0194243-00

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as LEATHER ZONE, 2352 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jasper L. McCargo. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 6, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0194243-00

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as LEATHER ZONE, 2352 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jasper L. McCargo. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 6, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

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March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

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March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

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March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

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March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0194243-00

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as LEATHER ZONE, 2352 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jasper L. McCargo. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 6, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0194243-00

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as LEATHER ZONE, 2352 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jasper L. McCargo. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 6, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

LEGAL NOTICES

as AFROTEC USA, 280 Sunshine Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044; Celedonio M. Javier, 280 Sunshine Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044; Tessie Galvea, 280 Sunshine Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of January 24, 1997. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed C.M. Javier. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 5, 1997.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 212065

The following person(s) are doing business as O'CONNORS, 2629 San Bruno Ave., Suite 583, San Francisco, CA 94124; Jasper L. McCargo, Jr., 1500 McRimmon Ave., San Francisco, CA 94124. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 6, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jasper L. McCargo. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 6, 1997.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 212033

The following person(s) are doing business as PANDEMOUNIUM PRESS 2, PAN-PIPES PRESS, 10 Appleton Ave B, San Francisco, CA 94110; George Morten, 10 Appleton Ave B, San Francisco, CA 94110; George Morten, Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 6, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed George Morten. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 5, 1997.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 985005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of ELENA NICOLE MONTEZ for change of name. The application of ELENA NICOLE MONTEZ for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ELENA NICOLE MONTEZ has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to FELICIA ALVARADO ELIZONDO. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 21st day of April, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 3rd day of March, 1997.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 985031

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of RICHARD ROBERT SALVITTI, JR. for change of name. The application of RICHARD ROBERT SALVITTI, JR. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that RICHARD ROBERT SALVITTI, JR. has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to RICHARD BALDEV-SALVITTI. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 29th day of April, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 4th day of March, 1997.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 985032

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of RICHARD BALDEV-SALVITTI, JR. for change of name. The application of RICHARD BALDEV-SALVITTI, JR. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that RICHARD BALDEV-SALVITTI, JR. has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to RICHARD BALDEV-SALVITTI. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 29th day of April, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 4th day of March, 1997.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 985032

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of RICHARD BALDEV-SALVITTI, JR. for change of name. The application of RICHARD BALDEV-SALVITTI, JR. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that RICHARD BALDEV-SALVITTI, JR. has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to RICHARD BALDEV-SALVITTI. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 29th day of April, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 4th day of March, 1997.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 985032

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March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 1997.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of ROMEO AMADO BALDEVISIO, JR. for change of name. The application of ROMEO AMADO BALDEVISIO, JR. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ROMEO AMADO BALDEVISIO, JR. has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to ROMEO SALVITTI. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 29th day of April, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 4th day of March, 1997.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 212326

The following person(s) are doing business as WEBLETS SERVICE, 3569 Pierce St., San Francisco, CA 94123; Patricia Corrigan, 3569 Pierce St., San Francisco, CA 94123. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Patricia Corrigan. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 17, 1997.

March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 212323

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212253

The following person(s) are doing business as MINI BLIND MAIDS, 40 Gaven St. #4,

San Francisco, CA 94134; Larry J. Fields,

40 Gaven St. #4, San Francisco, CA

94134. Registrant(s) commenced business

under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Larry Fields. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 26, 1997.

March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212186

The following person(s) are doing business as MIKE MOBILE, 3810 Noriega St., San Francisco, CA 94122; Michael Richard Trealy, 3810 Noriega St., San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 12, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual.

Signed Mike Trealy. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 12, 1997.

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LEGAL NOTICES

March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 985225

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of MICHAEL ANDREW YACKOWSKI for change of name. The application of MICHAEL ANDREW YACKOWSKI for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that MICHAEL ANDREW YACKOWSKI has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to MICHAEL ANDREWS. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 29th day of April, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 11th day of March, 1997.

March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

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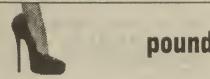
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DTP134R0

FEBRUARY 1997

Wayne Hoffman gets to the bottom of David Leavitt's homophobic encounter with 'Esquire' magazine.
page 44

'Twilight of the Golds'
is a surreal vehicle for Faye Dunaway and Brendan Fraser.
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Bell and Thibaudet
grind away in Herbst Theatre.
page 49



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 12 • 20 March 1997

Videodrones



D'Arcy Drollinger as Superman in *Suburbia 3000*.

With *Suburbia 3000*
D'Arcy Drollinger
completes postmod,
'retro-futurist' triptych

by Chad Jones

D'Arcy Drollinger has set a monumental goal for himself: to create a new kind of musical theater, one that combines the impact of great drama and the pumped-up adrenaline rush of a good rock 'n' roll show. As a composer, lyricist, and dramatist, he has just the pedigree to accomplish this mission. At 28, he's part of a rock trio — the local cult favorite Enrique — and he's just completed what he calls his *Brite Sleep Trilogy* of rock operas. *Suburbia 3000*, the final installment in the series that began in 1993 with *Cereal Killers* and continued with last year's *The Possession of Mrs. Jones*, premieres Friday night at the SOMAR Theatre.

Inspired by rock musicals such as *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Hair*, Drollinger set out to craft a musical and dramatic experience about man's quest for his id. "All three of my shows deal with a search for identity and true love amid the onslaught of the media culture we live in," Drollinger explains. "But the shows also embrace the idea that media culture sort of glorifies this empty, glistening commercial age we live in, even while it exposes just how hollow and isolating it all is."

Audiences needn't fear coming into *Suburbia 3000* without having seen its predecessors, all of which are linked more by theme and style than by character or plot. Any attempt to provide a synopsis of *Suburbia* reveals an incredibly convoluted story populated by characters culled from a thorough trolling of the American pop zeitgeist.

Set in what its creators call "a *fin-de-siècle*, retro-futurist" universe, *Suburbia 3000* is about the inhabitants of a planet who are creating a civilization based on fragments of intercepted American television transmissions. Drollinger plays

page 51 ▶

Putting it together

Dynamic art duo
Leone & Macdonald

by Glen Helfand

Coupling is a universal human activity, but no relationship is without its element of risk. It is just this uneasy territory that collaborative artists Leone & Macdonald explore in their current exhibition at Rena Bransten Gallery. Using a series of evocative sculptures that are metaphorically linked, and which sometimes literally symbolize elements of fate and chemistry, the artists elegantly illustrate the tenuousness of human relationships.

In one piece, entitled *Chemistry*, two blown-glass champagne flutes are fused at the top. The piece is perched on a base mounted high on a wall, but on close inspection, you can see scientific measurements etched into the side of each glass. Though champagne evokes romance, here the bubbly could never be consumed, as it's metaphorically caught in a closed, academic equation. The artists suggest that as good as a relationship may sound on paper, the fusion of two people always has its dysfunctional side. The sense of duality embodied in *Chemistry* pervades most of the work in this show, especially the exhibit's most emblematic piece, *Handmade Straight Jacket*, which is composed of two dark garments with seamless, elongated sleeves that hang down like jump ropes, suggesting simultaneously a sense of entrapment and freedom.

"Anybody who's ever had a relationship could relate to this work," says Hillary Leone, the darker-haired half of Leone & Macdonald. "It really is about getting at both sides of the situation."

page 40 ▶



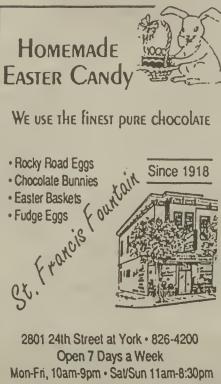
Jennifer Macdonald
and Hillary Leone

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

OUT THERE

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

Spring is in the air, which means taste-makers in the fashion worlds of Paris, New York, London, and LA are all atwitter. Of course, in our neck of the woods there is no such thing as fashion, unless you take as a comment on the state of contemporary *haute couture* the irony and humor found in *In Support of Women: The Bra Show*, an exhibition of 41 bras currently on display at the Cultural Arts Council of Sonoma County. The show, curated by **Barnee Alexander**, isn't really about the bra as an appurtenance of female attire as much as it is a tongue-in-cheek look at the *soutien-gorge* as both an object of satire and a symbol of collective female identity. "The show has been wildly popular," says **Barbara Thoulion**, Program Coordinator for CAC and one of



the curators of the show. "We've sold five pieces!"

The excitement is understandable. It's not often sleepy Santa Rosa is descended upon by hordes of women (and a few men) offering up designs for underbodies that come with their own composition titles, some of which are quite funny, like **Monica Boettcher's** "The Tits Stare Back," a suitably punchy moniker for this standard '50s-style bra onto which Boettcher has glued hundreds of jiggling plastic eyeballs. Other titles poke fun at trade names, like *I Dreamed I Was Andy Warhol in My Maidenform Bra* and *The Wonder Bra*, while others are metaphorical *Hang 'Em Up, Boxed In, The Fling*.

The exhibit's *piece de resistance*, however, is **Marguerite Finn's** pentagonal tour de force, *Presidential Bras—Busts of the Commanders in Chief*. Here, the artist has taken busts of five U.S. presidents and adorned each with an uplift comically incongruent with the commander's personality. **Teddy Roosevelt**



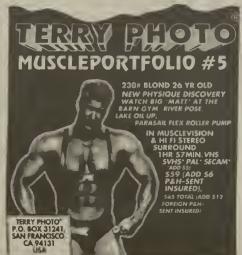
wears a '70s-style halter-top with bold, happy stripes; **George Washington** and **Abraham Lincoln** get variations on a theme of delicate; and **Ronald Reagan** pulls out all the stops with a gold bustier number reminiscent of **Madonna's** pointed cone days. The contrast between the greasy black pompadour on his head and the baroque excess of the garment is hard to forget.

The most memorable of Finn's creations, however, is her bust of **Richard Nixon**, which shows the paranoid former prez's beefy trunk engulfed in strips of black tape issuing from a tape recorder.

In Support of Women: The Bra Show is on display at the Cultural Arts Council of Sonoma County, 602 Wilson St. in Santa Rosa through the end of the month. Hours are 12-5 p.m. daily. Call (707)-579-ARTS for information.

Hairspray queen

All this talk about fashion put us in the mood to read **Alice Rawsthorn's** impressive new biography of fashion diva **Yves St. Laurent** (Doubleday). It's hard to believe from the rather deflating portrait the author paints of St. Laurent that he was once the most phenomenal thing ever to hit the Paris runways (after **Dior**, of course, who taught St. Laurent everything he knew). In 1968, when YSL was at the peak of his powers, he was dressing clients like **Catherine Deneuve** and **Nan Kempner**, **Lauren Bacall**, and



YSL with Hazel, his chihuahua, in Paris in 1968

ists, other designers — backstage at *prete-a-porter* oblivious to the powdery white moustache on his upper lip. But the thing that really made people nervous was when St. Laurent, apparently strung out on some drug or another, threatened to burn the famed silk-screen **Andy Warhol** had made of him if the artist went through with plans to make similar portraits of competitors **Halston** and **Valentino**. It was only a threat.

Glory days

St. Laurent, Halston, and Valentino were, of course, regulars at Studio 54 in the mad and mercurial late '70s, and their names pop up with some frequency in **Anthony Haden-Guest's** dishy and entertaining new book, *The Last Party: Studio 54, Disco, and the Culture of the Night* (William Morrow & Co). The book isn't so much about "Studio" as it is a detailed reminiscence of the thrillseekers, powermongers, drug dealers, drug addicts, artists, movie stars, and wannabes who made Manhattan night life the envy of the world in the '70s. But the magic that happened in places like Studio 54, Enchanted Garden, Xenon, New York, New York, and other hot spots wasn't mere coincidence. As Haden-Guest observes, these clubs were destined to become infamous because of the anarchic nature of the '70s, a decade when the failed idealism of the '60s, post-Watergate cynicism about politics and politicians, economic woes, and the mysterious allure of the emerging queer revolution made people want to lose themselves in a spectacular new musical phenomenon called disco.

But as St. Laurent's star rose, so did his demons, and Rawsthorn's book isn't short on cataloging them. Alongside the glamorous portrait she paints of a star who hobnobbed with glitzers like Rudolf Nureyev, Loulou de la Falaise, Paloma Picasso, and

Betty Catroux, and his designs for Rive Gauche boutiques in Paris and London were so sensational they became instant status symbols among the elite trend-setters in Hollywood, and idiomatically expressive of an entire era.

But as St. Laurent's star rose, so did his demons, and Rawsthorn's book isn't short on cataloging them. Alongside the glamorous portrait she paints of a star who hobnobbed with glitzers like Rudolf Nureyev, Loulou de la Falaise, Paloma Picasso, and



Elton John, Andy Warhol, and Jerry Hall at Studio 54.

Ron Galella

the Baroness Marie Helene de Rothschild, another picture emerges, that of a frustrated queen whose celebrity was largely fueled by a regular diet of booze, drugs, and parties till dawn.

Eventually, time caught up with YSL in the '80s, when unpleasant side-effects of his glittering lifestyle began to surface. At one fashion show in Paris, *par example*, a puffy, middle-aged St. Laurent, apparently stunned by the audience's lackluster response to his latest collection, screamed, "Why aren't they clapping?" and went berserk backstage with a can of hairspray, emptying its contents all over the hired help and himself. And it was not uncommon during this decade for YSL to greet people — friends, journal-

Marie Antoinette in a miniskirt; **Hamilton Jordan** pretending not to be noticed; **Liza, Liz Taylor**, and **Halston**, 54's stalwart triumvirate; **Roy Cohn** negotiating owner **Steve Rubell's** problems with the IRS; **Margaret Trudeau** shit-faced; and, of course, the ubiquitous **Andy Warhol**, who emerges as a sort of ringleader of these itinerant, motley forces.

The author's denouement is a precipitous drop from the numinous heights of 54 to Manhattan's current scene, whose biggest *cause celebre* is the sordid business involving hard-visaged **Michael Aliq** and a dismembered corpse. If ever we needed proof that we live in an unglamorous time, this discomfiting trajectory underscores it dramatically. ▼

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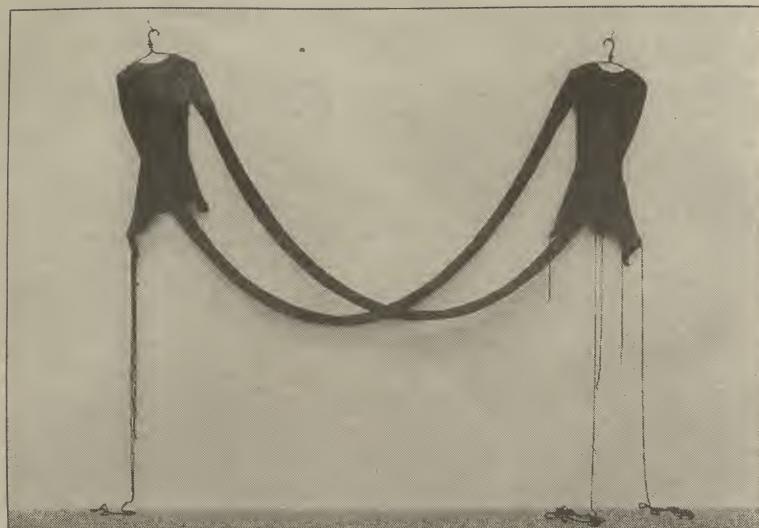
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Handmade Straight Jacket, 1995.

Robin Holland

L&M

◀ Arts cover

"And any artist could have taken up the subject matter of coupling," adds her collaborator Jennifer Macdonald. "For us it's certainly had a particular meaning. There are two of us, and we've been working together for ten years. We have a very intense experience of each other and what it means to work together."

Although gay male art teams are not uncommon — Gilbert and George, McDermott and McGough, Aziz & Cucher — Leone & Macdonald's joint venture has constituted one of the most high-profile female collaborations in modern art history. It makes perfect sense that their art deals with issues of identity and relationships, as for seven years of their collaboration, the artists were also lovers. During this time they created sculptures and process-oriented installations that explore ways of presenting the self.

While these intelligent, articulate, thirtysomething talents are no longer romantically involved, their collaboration continues, their previous involvement providing a subtext for the sculptures in this show. Still, you couldn't exactly call the pieces autobiographical.

"All of our work is extremely personal, and our job as artists is to effect some sort of transformation," Leone says. "The pieces have emotional truth, which we try to transform into something meaningful to others. If it's art therapy or autobiography, it's not terribly interesting."

Leone & Macdonald make things more provocative by layering conceptual ideas over acts of personal change. A 1994 installation titled *Double Fools Cap*, for example, involved the artists shredding their wardrobes and turning the fabric fibers into a thousand pieces of handmade paper. The colorful sheets of paper were then mounted on the gallery wall in grid fashion, and included other elements from the process. With *Double Fools Cap*, the artists transformed an act of personal closet-cleaning into an incisive exploration of how people construct identities. As they wrote in their gallery statement: "For us it is a fantasy, a chance to reinvent our stories as something else: paper, blank and full of possibility."

What's in a name?

Leone & Macdonald met in San Francisco in the late '80s when both were working at *Moth-*

er Jones magazine. Leone was assistant to the publisher, while Macdonald served in the art department. Both were independent artists. The more cerebral of the pair, Leone, was working on a performance piece and recruited Macdonald as a participant.

"We consulted over the piece and there was this fabulous interchange over our work," Macdonald recalls. "It was an utterly unexpected spark of energy."

It also began the sometimes difficult process of forging a collaborative identity in an art world that exalts the individual. Naming themselves as a team took on deep implications in regard to gender and sexuality. (Their first conversations about collaboration occurred at the corner of Powhatan and Moultrie in Bernal Heights, and to steer clear of direct personal connections, they originally considered the androgynous Powhatan & Moultrie for their professional moniker.)

"Our whole body of work is about how there is no such thing as a fixed identity, or fixed anything," adds Macdonald. "It all has to do with shifts and plurality."

This also seems to apply to the public's response to their art. Their work has only recently been embraced by gay audiences. The pair was recently profiled in a segment on PBS' *In The Life* and just returned from Australia, where they were the official international artists for the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

"That was a new thing for us, being considered lesbians," comments Leone. "It's a real shift for us, but I don't know what it signifies on the bigger picture. Perhaps there's a bigger playground, more opportunity for a range of expression that can be heard and seen."

Leone believes gay and lesbian audiences are becoming interested in broader discourses. In Sydney, the artists presented a complex video installation called *Pass-*

Their intention has never been to make what they call 'ding-dong art and pussy painting.'

"There was a back and forth for several years between our own imagined identities as separate artists, and the fear of what it would mean to collaborate and to form a we rather than I," Macdonald continues.

As women in the art world, both Leone and Macdonald are understandably sensitive about directly linking their personal lives with their work. "Your whole biography becomes a commodity in and of itself," Macdonald explains. "When we were together as a couple everyone said, 'I don't understand how you can work together and live together.' And when we broke up everyone said, 'I don't understand how you could still work together and not live together.' We've had to be careful during this period of transition. We need to let people know that we're serious artists, and that we're not going away."

Broader discourse

While the pair has never been in the closet, their intention has never been to make "gay" artwork, or what Leone calls "ding dong art and pussy painting." Rather, each has consistently explored the notion of how people construct their identities. "We were never considered lesbian artists or contextualized in a gay show," Leone says.

ing, a project that fits into the artists' continuing exploration of the construct of identity, be it as a couple or as individuals. *Passing* is composed of carefully arranged interviews with 60 Miami residents who have "passed," however briefly, for something they're not. It's an experience known intimately to most of us.

The fact that this glitzy, thought-provoking piece bears little resemblance to the poetic sculptures on view here is intentional, as both artists have made a conscious effort to explore different aesthetics and subjects with each new project. The artists, however, have found that this strategy generates surprising reflections of their collaborative vision.

"You start to feel a little insane when you keep reinventing yourself," Macdonald admits. "There seems to be a signature style that emerges out of the work anyway. No matter what the medium, it still looks like we made it." ▼

Work by Leone & Macdonald is up through March 22 at the Rena Bransten Gallery, 77 Geary Street. The artists can also be seen on repeats of PBS' *In the Life* on KQED-9 (check local listings for times).

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Faye Dunaway and Garry Marshall play a nice Jewish couple who have problems with queers.

All that glitters

'Twilight of the Golds' comes to Showtime

by Robert Julian

Twilight of the Golds posits the isolation of a gay gene. The pregnant Suzanne Stein, daughter of Walter and Phyllis Gold and wife of medical researcher Dr. Robert Stein, tests positive for the presence of this gene; Suzanne's soon-to-be-born son will probably be gay, just like her brother David. What the Golds do with this information is the substance of *Twilight of the Golds*. And although the idea has potential, the Golds, drawn as upper middle-class Jews, are so snide, shallow, neurotic and morally bankrupt that they could make a drowning man gasp for water.

Suzanne, played by the ever-wooden Jennifer Beals, is a spoiled brat who dropped out of medical school because it was too hard. She won't do anything difficult, and she doesn't want to deal with her feelings. Suzanne works in retail and lives with her husband, a constipated medical researcher, Rob (Jon Tenney).

Brother David (Brendan Fraser) is an unsuccessful artist who lives with his lover Steven (Sean O'Bryan). David's relationship with his sister is strained, and he resents the fact that his parents don't invite his lover to their home. David and Steven are attempting to mount a post-mod production of the entire Wagner Ring Cycle when Suzanne's little secret leaks out.

Homophobe and grandpa-to-be Walter Gold (Garry Marshall) kvetches a lot to his wife, Phyllis, played as a perfectly groomed yenta by Faye Dunaway in a black wig. (Yes, that Faye Dunaway. Oy — don't ask.) How despicable is this family? Let me count the ways.

When Suzanne takes the second bite of a macaroon handed to her by brother David, momma Phyllis blurts out, "Suzanne, don't eat from his mouth." Over lunch, Suzanne contemplates aborting her pregnancy while her girlfriend is more concerned with

how bad the food has become at "the club." Walter's advice to his daughter regarding the possible abortion is, "If you and Rob have a chance to avoid some of the crap, why not take it?" Grandpa Walter later describes himself and Phyllis as "liberal people" and proceeds to tell their gay son David, "I think you're sick and diseased." The self-sacrificing



Brendan I-need-a-haircut Fraser.

Phyllis tells David the story of how she dumped her best friend in college because she saw the friend's mother crippled by Huntington's disease and she knew that her friend might someday be similarly afflicted. Phyllis just couldn't stand the thought of having to deal with that.

Unprecedented Jew-bashing

Rob, Suzanne's husband, supports aborting his gay son with the succinct and scary conclusion: "Why enter into a no-win situation?" And then, of course, there is Rob's Orthodox Jewish father (Jack Klugman in a cameo role). You can imagine how a guy who objects to ballpark franks must feel about having a gay grandson. Obviously, author Jonathan

Tolins must be working through some personal issues, but there is an unprecedented amount of Jew-bashing that occurs here in the form of individual character assassination.

Performances in this film range from ethnic stereotype (Dunaway) to catatonia (Beals) to scenery-chewing (Marshall). Brendan Fraser's David has a perpetually wild-eyed expression that suggests he did his character research at Bellevue. This allows Sean O'Bryan's Steven to emerge as one of the few relatively normal humans in the cast, along with Rosie O'Donnell's Jackie, the thankless sidekick at Suzanne's day job.

Director Ross Marks throws this mess together in an undistinguished fashion, but there isn't much anyone could do with this material. Playwright Tolins adapts his own play with the assistance of screenwriter Seth Bass, but the two writers make little progress in opening up the story for the screen. The film version, like the play, provides a cast of characters who make much ado about precious little.

The motion picture, however, rewrites the ending of the original play. The new, superficially optimistic conclusion allows for the birth of the child and implies an uneasy reconciliation among the Golds. Suzanne will raise her queer baby as a single mother — society be damned and full speed ahead through a mist of tears and soft-focus photography. This places the audience in the awkward position of being grateful to the Golds for allowing the child to be born — as if their grudging willingness not to terminate a queer life somehow makes them hugable. Gay and lesbian viewers will probably find this conclusion as warm and fuzzy as a Hallmark card featuring Hitler. No amount of rewrites could make a silk purse of this sow's ear. ▼

Twilight of the Golds will be shown Sunday, March 23, on Showtime.

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Naked truths

'Tender Fictions' launches MadCat Women's Film Festival

by Gary Morris

Barbara Hammer is best known for her groundbreaking experimental film *Nitrate Kisses* (1992), which fearlessly broke two taboos by showing older lesbians in extended erotic embrace, all in richly detailed black and white. Hammer has been making films since the '70s (she helped inspire Peter Adair's groundbreaking *Word Is Out*) in which she wanted to create autobiography "before someone else does it." *Tender Fictions* (1995) is the result — a playful, penetrating description of an artist's life.

Tender Fictions is built from a vast array of raw materials: scratchy home movies; snapshots; overdubs from academic texts; interviews; snippets from '50s TV programs; reminiscences by Hammer, family and friends, and a string of sometimes bitter ex-girlfriends. Images at the beginning center on Hammer's tenuous link to Hollywood — her grandmother's position as cook for Lillian Gish, and her mother's desire for her to be like Shirley Temple, an aspiration she explains with a fascinating tidbit: "I was born at a time when Shirley Temple was the highest-paid female in America."

Hammer learned tap dance and elocution, but was rejected by talent scouts because she had no formal training as an actress. Decades later, she pokes fun at this syndrome, ironically attempting to squeeze her feet into Temple's imprints at the Chinese Theatre, and dressing up like Charlie Chaplin for Halloween.

The filmmaker has the same dysfunctional family story to tell that most of us do, but she tells it with an artist's touch, intermingling voices of "authority" (from television, mostly) with her own. She matter-of-factly describes her mechanic father's "greasy" hair turning his pillow black, and his calling for a gun to kill himself when his migraine headaches became too intense. A quoted passage describes the powerful influence the mother-daughter relationship has on lesbians, and Hammer provides proof in a striking



Shirley and Barbara forever.

Tender Fictions is one of the many films featured in the First Annual MadCat Women's Film Festival, running March 21-23 at the Roxie Cinema. Other films include Monica Bellucci's 85-minute feature *Fistful of Flies*; Lynn Sachs' *A Biography of Lilith*; Su Friedrich's *Damned If You Don't and Gently Down the Stream*; and many others. For more information about the MadCat Women's Film Festival, call 339-8170. The Roxie Cinema is at 3117 16th St.

ing reminiscence of rejecting her dying mother's plea that she climb in bed with her: "That's incest — I can't." Hammer expresses alarm at a therapist referring to her mother as "seductive" — like most children, she was unable at the time to see that her parents were sexual beings in their own right.

Part of Hammer's arsenal is the shocking image, which she intermittently inserts into the film. Sometimes she puts a mild disguise on it, so you're not entirely sure what you're looking at. One example is a shot of a cat playing with an object that turns out to be a hard penis! This process of dis-

guising and then revealing truths is a hallmark of her work, and serves another function in commenting on the necessity of disguise as self-protection, especially in a film funded by the NEA.

Tender Fictions follows a loosely chronological trajectory, with a high point in 1970, when Hammer joined a Santa Rosa Women's Lib group and discovered she was a "lesbian," a word she claims not to have heard before. Still, she continuously refers back to her childhood in an attempt to understand her present self. "When I was little I made up a game called the Truth Club. Once you were sworn into the club, as I did all my girlfriends, you had to answer my questions put to you truthfully. I think the intention of the game was to reveal the secrets and the falsehoods I experienced living in a middle-class American family."

Hammer's career as filmmaker and cultural commentator can be seen as an extension of this seemingly innocuous childhood game. That she is not immune to potentially unappealing truths about herself is shown in the comments of some of her ex-girlfriends. One says bluntly, "I thought you were treating me like a chair you could sit on." *Tender Fictions* gains immeasurably from Hammer's unwillingness to temper the egotism implied by such comments. ▼



Barbara Hammer

Tender Fictions will be shown at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, at the Roxie Cinema.

FILM

Irrelevant psychopathology

David Cronenberg's 'Crash'

by Gary Morris

While David Cronenberg's *Crash* provoked intense, mostly negative reactions, including mass audience walkouts, when it screened at Cannes last year, it opened with much less fanfare throughout most of the civilized world—except the United States. Ted Turner, in his self-appointed role as morality czar (and owner of the company that optioned the rights to *Crash*), delayed the Canadian film's release here until, as Cronenberg said, "somebody higher up—God?" in the corporate food chain forced his hand. Yet, despite all the hoopla surrounding his adaptation of J.G. Ballard's 1973 paean to car sex and car crashes, Cronenberg's cutting-edge film is surprisingly dull.

Crash opens with a pale, otherworldly blonde, Catherine (Deborah Unger), sliding her nipples across a prop plane in a deserted hangar. While she's turning herself on with all this cold steel, her equally bored husband, TV producer James Ballard (James Spader), sidles up and begins dry humping her from behind. The Ballards are a modern couple, and like so many of us, try to work in as many car-crash sexual escapades as the day allows. But the film doesn't paint them as anomalies; they're only two of an apparent army of obsessives. There's Dr. Helen Ferguson (Holly Hunter), who, of course, becomes Ballard's lover after he nearly kills her in a car wreck. They consummate their relationship in various parking garages. There's also Gabrielle (Rosanna Arquette), an orthopedic nightmare in braces and fishnets whose legs bear arroyo-like scars. Her braces, in spite of their fetishistic allure, prove pesky indeed when she tries to climb into a car for one of the film's many "radical" fucks. Most important, though, is the wiry, muscular Vaughan (Elias Koteas), who works in a hospital by day and spends his nights recreating famous car crashes like James Dean's and Jayne Mansfield's.

Vaughan is portrayed as a visionary who attracts many followers to his illegal performance pieces. He claims the blurring of boundaries between human and car, steel and flesh, constitutes "benevolent psychopathology." His mantra, "the reshaping of the human body by technology" is certainly the case with these characters, who get off on disfiguring themselves with shattered windshield glass and steering columns up the ass. Vaughan and his pals move with dreary predictability from sexual thrills to dismemberment and death.

While it may be unfair to expect coherence and credibility from what is essentially Cronenberg's private erotic dreamscape, his inability to create a truly transporting environment or any kind of empathy for—or interest in—his characters makes *Crash* cry out for exegesis. Instead of letting the director's "vision" overwhelm us—as it does in the work of David Lynch or Ridley Scott—we find ourselves becoming bitchy nit-pickers, groaning about every implausibility. We find ourselves wondering what hospital would employ an obvious nut case like Vaughan, who stops patients in the hallway and sniffs around their wounds; why the police don't arrest James Ballard for vehicular manslaughter in the death of Dr. Ferguson's husband; and, most of all, why officials in the city of Toronto would allow fetishists to take over the highways day and night, blithely ramming and running each other and mystified non-fetishists off the road.

Crash is celebrated by its few fans for its atmospheric set-pieces, particularly those that feature Vaughan and his minions. But these scenes are often embarrassingly pretentious, and sometimes ridiculous, as when Gabrielle stymies a salesman by trying to force her recalcitrant leg brace into a new car, or when the stuntman's Jayne Mansfield wig is found at the scene of his highway "accident," or when Ballard runs his wife off the road and then asks her if she's okay as she lies blood-



Deborah Unger and James Spader in a scene from *Crash*.

Michael Gibson

ied and still on the embankment. The sex scenes lack any of the hypnotic pull of real fetishism; Cronenberg's ultra-efficient, cold style makes them look more like the sick plastic sex offered by soft porn or TV commercials.

The porn connection is more than casual here. Indeed, the roots of the film seem to lie as much in pornography as in the alleged critique of postmodern, technological society. Deborah Ballard's breathless mutterings—"Tell me about his anus..."—are like the overcooked sex chatter heard in countless porn films, and they have about as much conviction. Filmmakers like Kenneth Anger

and Fred Halsted charted this realm with far less pomposity. A useful cross-reference is Halsted's grimly amusing *Sex Garage* (playing soon at the Castro), in which a bored biker walks up to his Harley, shoves his hard dick into the exhaust pipe, and pumps away. This is precisely where *Crash* collapses. Billed as extreme, the film lacks real guts. One of the most telling of the film's many sex scenes is the gay one, in which Vaughan and James Ballard kiss and claw and lick each other's tattoos in a dilapidated car. Are we surprised that shortly after, in what seems a coded homosexual panic, Vaughan attacks Ballard?

So much for the cutting edge.

Cronenberg's films are mostly cold, mechanical affairs aimed at shocking middlebrow sensibilities, peopled by characters who are typically trapped in a tediously grim *mise-en-scene*. *Crash* doesn't break the pattern. Ballard, Dr. Ferguson, Vaughan et al. are surface creations who lack any kind of self-knowledge and therefore any real interest to the viewer. James Ballard says, "I find it all quite satisfying, but I'm not sure why." Neither are we. ▀

Crash opens March 21 in general release.

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Drawing: Oto Rios

A view to a kill

Het mag pulls Leavitt story at last minute

by Wayne Hoffman

The irony is that this is a story about a writer named David Leavitt who writes term papers for co-eds in exchange for their letting him perform cunnilingus on them, you would see that this is a story that's right out there on the boundary," says Kosner. "I don't think it was the gender of the story. It's the situation and the language used to describe it."

Leavitt, an award-winning gay writer, is familiar with controversy; charges of plagiarism turned his last novel, *When England Sleeps*, into a tabloid scandal. This time around, however, everything seemed to be progressing



Author David Leavitt

smoothly since *Esquire* bought his new story, "The Term Paper Artist," last August. In January, he started editing the story for space with an associate editor and copy-editing with the magazine's fact-checker. He received an illustration commissioned to accompany the story and approved it. Galley arrived at his home in Rome, on schedule for April publication.

"Then I got this fax from Ed Kosner that came as a complete shock," he says. "I had never talked to him. Nothing like this had happened. Everything was going according to plan."

That fax from Kosner, *Esquire's* executive editor, changed everything. The brief letter — dated February 6, two weeks before the April issue finished production — informed Leavitt that his story would not be printed.

"What is published in *Esquire* is my responsibility and I simply didn't feel right going ahead," the letter read. "I say this with no disrespect for you or the literary merits of the story."

The story, one of three novellas in Leavitt's new book, *Arkansas* (Houghton Mifflin), is a fictional autobiographical tale about a scandal-worried author who overcomes his writer's block by ghost-writing term papers for undergraduate straight men in exchange for sexual favors.

"There might have been some worry that the readership of *Esquire* might react negatively to a story about heterosexual men proposing sex to a gay writer, because not only is this a story about how heterosexual men enjoy sex with another man, they also suggest it," Leavitt says. "Maybe they were afraid that their target readership, which is presumably heterosexual men, would find this upsetting."

Kosner says sexual orientation has nothing to do with it.

"If you reverse the situation, and say this is a story about a writer named David Leavitt who writes term papers for co-eds in exchange for their letting him perform cunnilingus on them, you would see that this is a story that's right out there on the boundary," says Kosner. "I don't think it was the gender of the story. It's the situation and the language used to describe it."

Esquire doesn't always shy away from straight erotic imagery, however, and except for a few explicit phrases — Leavitt was never asked to change objectionable words, even in the editing process — Leavitt's story isn't exactly X-rated.

"While Leavitt's story is hot, it's not nearly as racy or lurid as most of the heterosexual sex

page 47 ►

REVIEW

Leavittown revisited

by Roberto Friedman

Arkansas, Three Novellas by David Leavitt; Houghton Mifflin, \$23



Bouncing back from the fiasco of his last novel, first editions of which were pulped following charges of plagiarism, David Leavitt now offers *Arkansas*, a collection of three novellas meant to salvage his reputation. The first novella makes this dilemma overt. Its protagonist is David Leavitt, retreating to his parents' house in California after being hounded by the scandal of *When England Sleeps*. The book's title echoes Leavitt's self-perceived persecution: it's a reference to Oscar Wilde's line, "I should like to flee like a wounded hart into *Arkansas*."

Since the author himself brings up Stephen Spender's plagiarism lawsuit, a word about that. What rankled most about his lifting passages from Spender's memoir *World Without End* wasn't so much the legal question of plagiarism, as what it made apparent, a failure of the imagination. If E.M. Forster could rise from the grave, he might have groused as well, since an entire plot device in *Sleeps* was appropriated from *Howard's End*.

The Term Paper Artist, in which a fictional David Leavitt composes undergraduates' papers in return for sexual favors, is a romp, a fantasy, but it reads a bit thin. This is the story which *Esquire* paid to publish, then pulled. It would have been a strange fit. Even queer readers might have a lot of disbelief to suspend. I no longer believed that a college boy would call him "Mr. Leavitt" than I believed the boy would then say, "I understand homosexuals like large penises. Is that true?"

It's nice to know Leavitt's wet dreams involve blowing college boys who have read his books, but authorial masturbation is the only explanation for a passage in which one boy opines, "I liked *The Lost Language of Cranes* all right. I didn't much like *Equal Affections*." This gives Leavitt the opportunity to hold forth on his oeuvre, in a sort of dream interview over which he has total control: "I probably should have written it [*Equal Affections*] as a memoir. I still might."

Yet Leavitt pulls off a neat trick by framing the papers/blow job exchange as a business arrangement. His character essentially pays for sex with the fruit of his labors, words. His is a prostitution story, but it's the straight boys with visions of Stanford Business School dancing in their heads who are really the whores. That seems about right.

Leavitt has always been squeamish about writing sex scenes, and even in *The Term Paper Artist*, with a plot hinging on sex, the naughty business is never described. This points up the inherent contradiction in Leavitt's career: he wants mainstream attention, but as *Esquire's* chicken-shit rejection shows, the straight media doesn't really want stories about mercantile cocksucking. Gay writers shouldn't just write for gay readers, "David" pontificates. But what is it about straight readers that makes them so much more desirable?

The less said about the second novella, *The Wooden Anniversary*, the better. Celia and Nathan return from previous short story collections, and the contrived "surprise" ending is partly based on the premise that after seventeen years of friendship, Celia is still sore that her gay friend Nathan won't fuck her. Right. Much about this story is indeed wooden.

But *Arkansas* is partly redeemed by its final novella, *Saturn Street*, a moving and honest portrayal of life during AIDS. Jerry is a volunteer for a Project Open Hand-type agency in LA who becomes emotionally involved with a client to whom he delivers lunches. Here Leavitt is at his best, exploring the differences between his self-conscious narrator and PWA Phil. Jerry, with the sense of entitlement common to Leavitt's characters, has to apprehend Phil's very real poverty. There's humor as well as pathos in this tale, and Leavitt pulls it off without descending into maudlin soap opera. If only the author could have let go of having the last word on the Spender fiasco, he might have jettisoned the first two pieces and developed *Saturn Street* into the full-length novel it could have been. ▼

THEATRE

Farcetastic

Joe Sears is dressed to kill in 'The Foreigner'

by Chad Jones

There will always be comedy as long as Joe Sears has a dress. The man is a comic marvel, as he has proven over the last 16 years in *Greater Tuna* and *A Tuna Christmas*. Put him in a dress and a miraculous transformation occurs. Not only is he a fine comic actor but also one of the great comic actresses of our age. Seriously.

Sears is back in town in the tenth anniversary production of Larry Shue's down South farce *The Foreigner* at the Marines Memorial Theatre. The big news, aside from the fact that he's once again starring with *Tuna* partner and brilliant-in-his-own-right funny man Jaston Williams, is that Sears wears a dress throughout this two-and-a-half-hour show. As fishing lodge keeper Betty Meeks, Sears steals every scene he's in. But to be fair, Williams, who is really the star in the central role of Charlie the foreigner, holds tight to center stage with his own comic mastery.

While nowhere near as sidesplittingly funny or as warm-hearted as either of the *Tuna* shows (which Sears and Williams wrote — supposedly they're working on a third), *The Foreigner* is a pleasing, adequately funny vehicle for Sears and Williams to strut their stuff — and what a joy their stuff is. Their comedy harkens back to an age of stage comedy rooted in the bravado of vaudeville and influenced by the precision swiftness of British farce. When Williams and Sears hit their respective strides, it's the Golden Age of Comedy all over again.

The best thing about *The Foreigner* is that it has edge, which is always good for comedy and gives its stars something to sink their teeth into. Williams plays Charlie Baker, a British science-fiction proofreader who has traveled to the hinterlands of Georgia to escape his unfaithful wife's slow and painful death in the hospital. The thing is, Charlie doesn't really have a personality and is shy around strangers, so he forces his friend Froggy LeSueur (Jonathan Lutz), a British military man who has brought him to the Meeks Fishing Lodge, to make his excuses to Betty and the other lodgers and explain that Charlie is not to be spoken to while in their company. In a burst of plot-thickening genius, Froggy tells Betty that Charlie is a foreigner and cannot speak English.

The rest of the play is simply an exercise in which Charlie develops his dormant personality. As the all-seeing, all-hearing but never-speaking presence, Charlie hears everybody's secrets. He discerns that nasty redneck Owen Musser (Corky Williams) is about to condemn Betty's lodge and put her land up for sale, and also figures out that there's something fishy going on between Catherine (Kathleen Couser) and her shifty boyfriend, the Reverend David Marshall Lee (Ed Beechner). The

mystery has to do with an unplanned pregnancy, millions of dollars in inheritance money, the Ku Klux Klan, and Catherine's mentally challenged younger brother Ellard (Tim Mateer). It's all pretty much by the numbers, but in-between the plot developments Williams and Sears get to shine.

Director David McKenna and set designer Karen Schulz provide a solid production for their stars, and the supporting cast is generally excellent (especially Couser as Catherine). But the show's success rests in the assured hands of Williams and a blissfully bewigged Sears. They transform this middling material into an electrical charge that sizzles with foreign currency. ▼

The Foreigner continues at the Marines Memorial Theatre through April 6. Call 771-6900 for information.



Joe Sears (in background), Jaston Williams, and Tim Mateer in *The Foreigner*.

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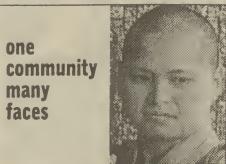
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Charles Peterson

Big happy family: Sky Cries Mary is, from left to right, DJ Todd Robbins, keyboardist/guitarist Gordon Raphael, vocalists Roderick and Anisa Romero, bassist Juano, drummer Ben Ireland, and guitarist Michael Cozzi.

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by Adrian Roberts

On *Exit At The Axis*, Sky Cries Mary's beautiful 1992 EP, a label was attached which read, "The last band from Seattle." This was during the height of "grunge rock," when seemingly every flannel-clad band from the Northwest was being hyped into oblivion. Sky Cries Mary, however, was quite unlike any other group coming out of Seattle. Their elaborate costumes, psychedelic light shows, spiritual lyrics, and ethereal space-rock sound distinguished them from the dross. The band's unique identity was solidified with its next two efforts, 1993's *A Return To The Inner Experience*, and 1994's *This Timeless Turning*, albums that revealed the seven-piece band's uncanny knack for creating complex musical dreamscapes out of tightly-wound, ambient textures.

So, you can only imagine my surprise upon hearing "Breathe In," the first track off the band's recently-released *Moonbathing On Sleeping Leaves*, which contains, of all things, a ripping hard

rock guitar solo! "I think Sky Cries Mary fans are going to be going, 'What the fuck?'" admits Roderick Romero, one of the band's two vocalists, and chief lyricist. "Whenever anyone expects something from us, I immediately want to revolt against it. And that was the whole thing with this record. We didn't want to do anything that we'd already done."

One thing the band had never done before is write an outright

sing oblique phrases about water, fire, salt, and winter.

"A lot of the songs are about healing," Roderick says, attempting to explain the meaning behind his lyrics. "There's a voodoo background to some of these songs. It's very ancient, and very deep. But it's also not obvious with just a couple of listens. That's always been the style. For me, that's what poetry is all about. It's open to all interpretations. You really have to

The band's elaborate costumes and ethereal space-rock sound distinguished them from the dross.

pop song. But with "Moonbathing," the album's first single, Sky Cries Mary comes awfully close. "We've never really written a song as positive as that one," explains Roderick. "In the past, I always tried to undermine it, so we didn't sound too poppy. But with this one, it was like, why don't we just let this song live as it is? We've never had any limitations, so why do it now?"

Cynical listeners may feel that the band's changing sound reflects its switch from World Domination, a small indie label, to major label Warner Brothers. Roderick, however, assures me this isn't the case. "They've all been really cool to us. They didn't say, 'use this producer' or 'write this kind of song.' They said, 'just make the records you want to make.'"

Which is exactly what Sky Cries Mary has done, spending more time than ever developing their songs before going into the studio. "We're influenced by our own music," Roderick says. "We listen to what we've done in the past, and try to take it even further. There's kind of an urgency to this album, because we were so excited about making another record with the same line-up, all seven of us."

That urgency is evident in the angelic, soaring vocals of Anisa Romero, the band's other vocalist, and Roderick's life partner. The couple comes off as some sort of a psychedelic space-rock version of John Doe and Exene Cervenka, intertwining their vocals as they

get into the words and start connecting some of the dots."

With Roderick's background in performance art, and Anisa's talent in painting (her work has graced the covers of the last two Sky Cries Mary albums) there has always been an arty element to the band, which is most apparent in their mesmerizing live performances. The two singers have been known to appear on stage in elaborate costumes and headresses.

Although the costuming has been downplayed some in recent years, not much else about the band has diminished in scale. Playing small clubs, it's often difficult for all seven members to fit onto the stage. And then there are the four additional crew members who handle the lights and sound. Needless to say, touring with an entourage this big can often get troublesome for a rock band.

But not so for Sky Cries Mary. "I've always liked the diversity," says Roderick, describing the group's familial dynamic. "A lot of our families have been kind of dysfunctional. And it's kind of nice to have a new family that actually can talk to each other, to know that I've got a bunch of people around who are really sweet and are looking out for each other." ▼

Sky Cries Mary plays with Sweet 75 Friday, March 21, at Slim's, 333 11th Street. Show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For more info, call 522-0333.

MUSIC

U2 gets down, gets funky

by Steven Jenkins

Pop, U2, Band Records

s this rock 'n' roll?" Bono asked midway through each concert of U2's monumental 1992 "Zoo TV" tour. Bono repeatedly wailed his question as the band spiraled through the climax of its apocalyptic Judas-and-Jesus dialogue. "Until the End of the World." Then he dropped the question mark and affirmed, "This is rock 'n' roll!" He meant it without irony, and he was right.

If it's not already evident, I should confess that I'm likely to indulge in a little hyperbole when discussing U2. Seventeen years of marveling at the band's musical accomplishments and benchmarking key moments of my personal history with specific albums and songs tends to unleash a torrent of laudatory adjectives. From a more critically objective viewpoint, I think U2 is unique for supreme artistry and for simultaneously celebrating and mocking global information overload and the trappings of its own success.

Having for years worn halos of saintly belief, U2 ushered in the '90s by debunking its own myths and getting seriously sexy, with Bono gleefully playing rock star in black leather and wraparound shades. Renewed vigor and glorious music of extreme emotional and intellectual substance made the "Zoo TV" tour and the one-two punch of *Achtung Baby* and *Zooropa* the decade's best rock music, and its smartest work of performance art thus far.

And now we have *Pop*, which

filters the band's sonic past through the here-and-now stylings of electronic dance music, dollops of samples and trip-hop beats, and reliable cascades of fractured guitar. It's a frequently startling record, sounding like Ireland's favorite sons have been listening to Prodigy and Tricky. As always, the band gracefully incorporates left-field musical references and propulsive rhythms within its patented three-chords-and-the-truth strategy, so that the new songs sound at once timely and timeless. Lyrically, Bono has returned to spiritual concerns, and it's clear he still hasn't found what he's looking for.

Pop opens with the triple threat of "Discothèque," "Do You Feel Loved," and "Mofo," dance tracks all beautifully fucked up with a barrage of noise and distortion, perfect for SOMA-style Saturday Night Fever. "You know you're chewing bubble gum/You know what that is but you still want some/Cause you just can't get enough of that lovie dovie stuff," Bono sings on "Discothèque," pinpointing the hedonistic joys of pop and its alluring promise of satisfaction.

Elsewhere, the band sounds bruised and moody, like on "If God Will Send His Angels" and "If You Wear That Velvet Dress," while "Gone" achieves epic drama. The band stretches out on "Miami," a percussion-heavy critique of vanity, and "The Playboy Mansion," which alternately damns and praises celebrity excess. At times Bono's writing is unfocused; he hits easy targets with stream-of-consciousness shorthand.

If no single track on *Pop* is as



Anton Corbijn

U2: The Edge, Larry Mullen, Bono, and Adam Clayton.

heartstopping as past highlights like "All I Want Is You" or "Stay (Faraway, So Close!)," as a whole it represents a fascinating leap into uncharted territory. U2 has one foot on the dance floor and the other in a discothèque all its own, where grooves are discovered through hard work and faith. This is rock 'n' roll, indeed. ▼

Leavitt

◀ page 44

that's described in *Esquire*," argues Don Romesburg, publications manager of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "If that is the reason it was pulled, it's a clear case of bias."

Bias or not, the unanswered question is: if the story was too risqué for *Esquire*'s readers, why was it accepted in the first place?

"It was a borderline call," Kosner says. "One fiction editor was in favor of it, and one was very strongly against it. Initially, I sided with the sponsor, and as we came closer to publication, I decided that the other guy was right. Editors have the prerogative to change their minds."

Will Blythe, *Esquire*'s literary editor, was the sponsor of the story, and although he never talked to Leavitt, he stood firmly behind the story's publication. In the end, he stood alone.

"Rust Hills, who has been the fiction editor at *Esquire* for more than 30 years, from the start was against running the story," says Kosner. "He felt that the combination of the theme and the occasional graphic language meant that it wasn't something we wanted to publish."

Leavitt is dubious about Kosner's simple tale of conflicting editorial tastes between Blythe and Hills.

"I have trouble believing this," says Leavitt. Aside from the associate editor and fact-checker, Hills was the only person at *Esquire*

with whom Leavitt had spoken — and only in a positive way. "When I was in Key West in January for this conference on AIDS and literature, I was at a party where I ran into Joy Williams, his wife, and she said, 'Let me introduce you to Rust.' And he came over and told me how much he loved the story. Who am I to believe?"

Heavy price

Whatever happened behind the scenes, Kosner paid a heavy price for his late about-face: *Esquire* still paid Leavitt his \$13,000 fee, and Blythe quit the magazine over the dispute. And the media circus began.

Rumors began to fly in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. Leavitt's literary agent, An-

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Musical magus

Mark Morris concerts excel in artistry — and camp

by Stephanie von Buchau

A New York dance critic once told me, "Musicality is what every balleromane talks about incessantly, though most of them wouldn't recognize it if it bit them in the butt." Yet almost everybody recognizes that Mark Morris is the most musical choreographer alive, though they may not be able to tell you why. After the second of the Mark Morris Dance Group's recent programs at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, a friend said, "He's the best I've ever seen at visualizing music."

To some observers, "visualizing" music means slavishly fol-

lowing every beat, choreographing every harmonic twist, and literally illustrating every song lyric. Morris can do that when he wants to, but he also employs visual and rhythmic counterpoint, off-center balances and flexed feet, circle and line dances that are polyphonically independent of the music, and remarkably varied arm gestures that are pure Morris. Dancers reach upward in supplication in *Falling Down Stairs*, set to the Unaccompanied Cello Suite by Bach (performed live by Yo-Yo Ma on the first program), and in *The Office* there is a sequence in which the dancers "make a muscle" with their biceps, curling the arm aloft in a proletarian's triumphant

salute.

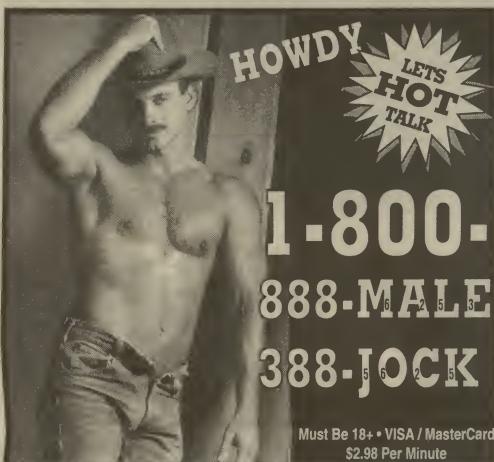
In his other world premiere, *Rhymes with Silver* (original music by Lou Harrison), the gestures seem to stem from Javanese puppetry, no surprise given Harrison's fascination with Pacific Rim music. Morris' own entrance in this work, turned sideways with one foot tucked up, was pure shadow puppet play. The Harrison piece went on too long for my taste, but served to highlight the fact that the other works on the program — *Falling Down Stairs* and *The Office* — are certified

masterworks.

The Office did what the best Morris dances always do: sent me scrambling for a recording of the music, which in this case — Dvorak's "Five Bagatelles" for two violins, cello, and harmonium — I didn't even know existed. On the surface, the five bagatelles are simple miniatures based on Czech folk tunes. Morris created the work originally for Zivila, a Midwestern Slavic folk music troupe. (Morris' own background includes membership in a Seattle-Balkan folk commune.)

community by AIDS, ethnic strife in Bosnia (in Ireland or the Middle East or Tibet), or even corporate downsizing.

Falling Down Stairs is as succinctly musical as *The Office*, only without the menacing subtext. To each of the Cello Suite's six dance movements, Morris offers joyous ensemble pleasures, some of them funny, some of them exquisitely physical, as when Julie Worden takes a header off the staircase at the end of the "Courante" only to be caught in midair by her colleagues. And the "Bourree," with



The Mark Morris Dance Group performs *A Spell*, by Mark Morris.

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After the premiere of *The Office* in 1994, jokes circulated about how the steps had to be simple because the troupe wasn't very technically accomplished, and that the *Ten Little Indians*-style dramatic device of removing one dancer at a time from the stage was employed to get the worst of them into the wings. Whatever. Morris' own dancers have no technical problems. Wearing simple, inelegant street clothes, six of them wait nervously in a setting consisting of drab folding chairs. Because the music is folksy, they do folksy movements, first as a sextet, then a quintet, then a quartet, until only Mireille Radwan-Dana is left in painful solitude. The quartet is particularly frenetic, with Morris kicking, stamping, and tossing his head like a wild horse facing captivity.

What the dancers face in *The Office* is a stern, uniformed woman (Tina Fehlandt) with a clipboard who silently ushers them away, one by one. For all its folksy camaraderie, the piece is an exercise in sheer terror, and its Morris' ability to squeeze both the fear and the joy out of that music that makes some of us worship his talent. Of course, the Berkeley audience laughed at the clipboard lady, but trust me, there is nothing funny about this dance, a tragic piece whose subtext could symbolize the decimation of the arts

seated dancers making spastic, ecclesiastical hand gestures, is as clever as it is funny.

Equally funny and campy is the other work new to the Bay Area, *A Spell* (1993), set to lute songs by Shakespearean composer John Wilson. I'm sure some observers wish Morris wouldn't make campy pieces, but choreographers do not live by bread alone, and *A Spell* makes the most delicious dessert. It's one of Morris' few heterosexual romances; he's usually content with ensemble sharing. He plays an oversized, over-aged cupid dressed in a burgundy tunic with a little pair of wings resting between his shoulder blades. (The tunic shows off Morris' powerful legs; over 40 and slightly paunchy, he is still the best dancer in the company.)

Mincing and flirting with the audience, this cupid literally puts a spell on Ruth Davidson and Guillermo Resto. They tease each other, finally getting down on the ground to do the dirty deed. It's suggestive rather than graphic, but the arms, knees, and heads popping out of their writhing bodies make a splendid example of frolicking sexuality unspoiled by guilt, fear, or other garbage. And, as if to prove that his taste is not as bad as some people like to think, once Davidson and Resto begin to dance in earnest, Morris takes his cute little wings and tactfully exits the stage. ▼

MUSIC

Bleeding chunks

Bell and Thibaudet manhandle the classics

by Timothy Pfaff

It's as risky as it is rewarding to pair musicians better known as soloists in joint recitals. Violinist Joshua Bell and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, among the brightest young musicians on the concert stage today, have in the past proved potent collaborators, as documented on the two CDs they have made for London Records. But at their San Francisco Performances recital at Herbst Theatre last Tuesday, they seemed ill-matched and, except for their powerful performance of Gabriel Fauré's Sonata in A Major, Op. 13, largely at odds with each other and the music.

While both musicians are beyond having to prove themselves to the public, no one seems to have told them that. The evening's greatest music, Beethoven's Sonata No. 9 in A Major (the "Kreutzer"), was performed in a manner that suggested the duo was trying to set a record for the fastest "Kreutzer" in history. Both musicians have shown time and again that they can play fast and with phenomenal accuracy, but last week the pair opted for tem-



Joshua Bell

poz that resulted in a performance that was both superficial and downright sloppy. Thibaudet, who has lately begun to demonstrate that he is an adept at the central German repertoire as he is with the French, weighed in with Beethoven distinguished by little more than nimble finger work. In the sonata's first two movements, Bell couldn't even offer that.

One of the young violinist's strongest assets is a laser-like con-

centration that makes pinpoint intonation virtually a given in his playing. Unaccountably, secure pitch eluded him on this occasion until well into the sonata's middle movement. Sour double-stops and smudged passage work invaded his playing with disconcerting regularity. Late in the middle movement's sequence of variations, the musicians began trading musical material with integrity, and something that sounded more like Beethoven's sonata finally began to emerge. The concluding Presto proved dazzling, though it was perhaps a case of too little, too late.

Bell closed the first half of the recital with Belgian violinist-composer Eugène Ysaye's *Sonata-Ballade* for solo violin, Op. 27, No. 3. The violinist dispatched the work's seemingly endless double- and triple-stops cleanly, and with remarkably good voicing of the "chords," and he was nothing short of brilliant at picking out fiendishly difficult hidden melodies. Still, his hot-blooded performance of this showpiece lacked some of the sweetness others have found in it.

And though Thibaudet is rightly celebrated for his Ravel, there was no mistaking that the composer's *Tzigane*, which closed the printed program, was offered as a showcase of Bell's virtuosity. The violinist supplied the requisite fireworks, but it was Thibaudet

next page ▶

Better than Good

Richard Goode: digging deeper into music

by Timothy Pfaff

Although the proverbial "Three B's" — Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms — are a kind of acronym for classical music, it's actually rare to encounter all three in a single concert. It's even rarer to encounter them in a performance as exalted as the one pianist Richard Goode delivered two Sundays ago at Davies Symphony Hall.

There aren't many pianists equally adept at mastering the Three B's, but for Goode, this is familiar terrain. And the performances he gave of Bach's Partita No. 4 in D Major, the Brahms Piano Pieces of Opp. 118 and 119 (both given complete, but in reverse order), and Beethoven's Sonata No. 32 in Minor, Op. 111 were both deeply personal and, in a word, mighty.

Remarkably, there wasn't a single finger slip in a program that would be considered difficult by any pianist's standards. But it was less the precision of execution that distinguished this recital than Goode's interpretations, which were as profound as they were probing.

From the opening statements of the Partita's French-style Overture, Goode weighed in with a sonorous, lavishly pedaled sound whose only concession to prevailing notions of period performance practice was his accentuation of the music's contrasts. Cannily, in the very next movement, Goode came back with an Allemande so light and fleet that it seemed to float on pure ether, carrying an intoxicated audience away with it.

What Goode's Bach revealed



Richard Goode

— something many a scrupulous performance on harpsichord has not — is how deeply rooted the music is in Baroque dance forms. This Bach danced sure-footedly and with verve, and the culminating Gigue — following a fugal opening the pianist captured to perfection — reached a nearly elemental fervor.

The late Brahms piano pieces are among the greatest works in the piano literature. With respect to their composer, they are both a summing up of the lifetime of experience that precedes them and a confident, fearless leap into the beyond. In these works, Brahms ventures into high altitudes of artistic and emotional experience, where the atmosphere is rarefied and the winds of inspiration blow strong. Goode's performance Sunday had the quality of a report back from the peaks.

The pianist performed the Adagio of the first intermezzos of Op. 119 at a daringly slow tempo,

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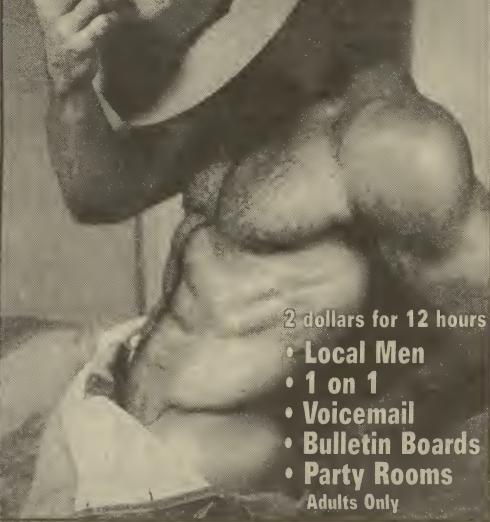
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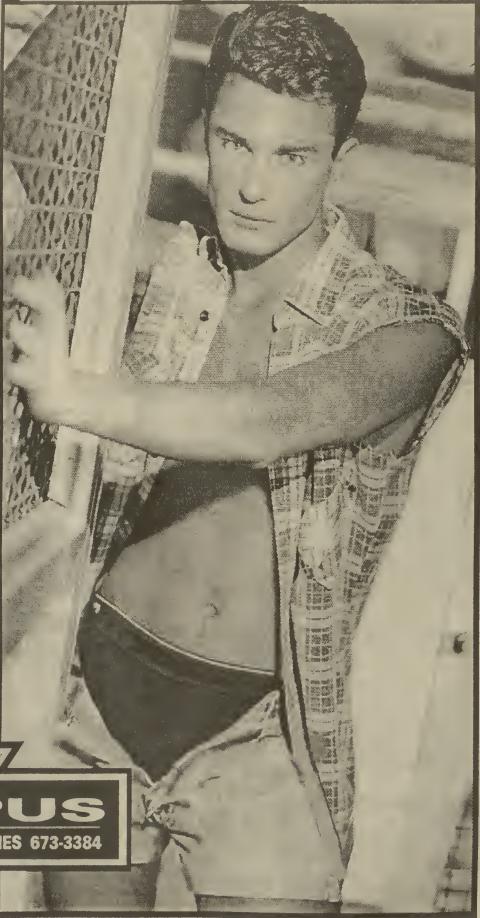
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Beyond the grave

by Deborah Peifer

Just an Ordinary Day by Shirley Jackson; edited by Laurence Jackson Hyman and Sarah Hyman Stewart; Bantam, \$23.95

When Shirley Jackson died in her sleep in 1965 at the all too young age of 46, she left behind an impressive body of work, including *The Haunting of Hill House*; the creepy eerie *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*; two delightful novels about her children, *Raising Demons* and *Life Among the Savages*; and perhaps the most famous short story of the 20th century, "The Lottery." Based on these works alone, I have to think that any list of the great writers of this century would have to include her.

Jackson's skill at creating the perfect tone for her subject was astonishing. The apparently bucolic opening of "The Lottery," for example, is the perfect set-up for the horror to come. She also wrote the most believable kids I've ever come across in fiction. Her death, however, left her legions of fans bereft.

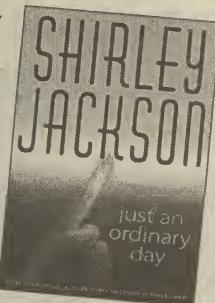
Imagine the surprise when, in a turn of events worthy of a Shirley Jackson short story, a dusty box discovered in a barn turned out to contain half a dozen unpublished stories. A further search by her children, two of whom edited this collection, led to more unpublished stories. The result is a collection of 54 pieces — many unpublished, others published only once in magazines now defunct — which features Jackson at the height of her powers. *Just an Ordinary Day* is a stunning achievement.

Choosing favorite stories to highlight is a little like choosing a

favorite child, only more difficult. Each story is a gem, lovingly polished to an appropriate gloss.

Anyone who has ever searched for an apartment will enjoy the epistolary "Indians Live in Tents" and the domino effect of multiple sublets. "Come to the Fair" is a touching tale of loneliness: "Helen Spencer was very lonely and, often, very unhappy, with the poignant misery that comes to lonely people who long to be social and cannot, somehow, step naturally and unself-consciously into some friendly group."

You needn't worry, however, that *Just an Ordinary Day* is limited to Jackson's warm side. There are plenty of very scary, very un-



nerving stories to keep you up until dawn. "The Good Wife" and "What a Thought" offer so terrifying a look at romantic relationships that you may decide to live alone forever. Jackson's look at the darker side of friendship, "The Order of Charlotte's Going," may convince you that the safest bet is to live with a cat.

New work from a writer long dead is so fantastic that it would be dismissed as unbelievable if offered in fiction. Given Shirley Jackson's long-standing interest in the supernatural, I suppose it was fitting for her to present her readers with the glorious gift that is *Just an Ordinary Day*. ▼

Thibaudet

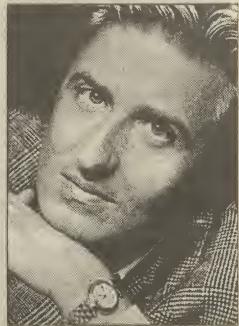
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who supplied the flavor, color, and nuance — in short, the music.

The recital's unambiguous triumph was the Faure, a piece the pair has recorded persuasively but which was played to even better effect Tuesday. This was a performance to refute the received but false wisdom that Faure composed in light, impressionistic pastels. There's a bigness and boldness in the best of Faure, and Bell and Thibaudet realized it masterfully.

With a lively, natural, yet close interplay, the musicians allowed the music to unfold across a beautifully supported long line. Even the wonderful effects, like Bell's breathtaking pianissimos, had causes. By the Allegro vivo third movement, there was even a sense that the two musicians, whose interactions to that point had seemed tentative and even prickly, were having fun. At last the music-making seemed fleet, not just fast, and the sonata's final flourishes seemed all the more thrilling for sounding genuine, and genuinely earned.

Better evidence of the brilliance and importance of these two artists arrived in record stores two days after they left town. Bell's recording of the Barber and Walton



Jean-Yves Thibaudet

ton violin concertos, with the Baltimore Symphony under David Zinman, is one of his finest ever. Although the Walton is marginally less urgent than the performance he gave with the San Francisco Symphony under Roger Norrington, it's deeper and more assured, and a performance worthy to stand beside either of the recordings by the concerto's dedicatee, Jascha Heifetz. Thibaudet's stunning *Conversations with Bill Evans* (in scrupulous Jed Distler transcriptions) brings out the Debussy, Ravel, and Messiaen accents in the jazz giant's playing while respecting the music on its own terms. It has Record of the Year stamped all over it. ▼

Goode

◀ previous page

charting the music's deep ebbs and flows. Time and again, Goode proved himself master of Brahms' treacherously complicated rhythms and cross-rhythms, and uncommonly adept at tracing crucial inner voices. On the evidence of this recital alone, Goode may be unparalleled today in his ability to voice chords for maximal cogency and expressive effect.

Brahms' rhetoric in these short pieces is so refined there isn't a superfluous note or gesture. Goode turned this rhetoric into fiery oratory in the Allegro risoluto that crowns Op. 119, and he left no doubt why the piece is called a rhapsody, as he imbued it with an enormity spacious enough for a climactic phrase of nearly unbearable intensity.

The opening A Minor Intermezzo of Op. 118 seemed epic in its grandeur, the succeeding one

in A Major achingly delicate, a whisper from beyond. The set unfolded in performances that proposed — and attained — an ideal. In the set's concluding intermezzo, the composer's and the pianist's voices seemed distinct yet inseparable.

Beethoven's great C Minor Sonata is territory Goode has made distinctively his own, exploring it with greater fervor and a deeper sense of discovery on every outing. In this latest ascent of yet another of music's summits, the pianist unleashed the kind of power that allowed him to deliver the piece in what seemed like a single, gigantic gesture. The pianist's concentration was palpable, so intense that it often felt like one was eavesdropping on a deeply private communion of composer and interpreter. Piano playing seldom gets this intimate or this transpersonal. In a performance that can only be called transcendent, Goode found ways to pronounce the ineffable. ▼

INTERVIEW

D'Arcy Drollinger

◀ Arts cover

Superman, a prophet who's discovered floating in space by Lucille Ball, who, with the aid of her sinister boyfriend Charlie Brown, uses the prophet to topple the regime of her father, The King, played by Leigh "Elvis Herselvis" Crow. Meanwhile, poor institutionalized Dorothy Gale from Kansas is acting out a little Hamlet drama of her own, listening to ghosts who reveal that her father was murdered and that she must avenge his death. All this drama is set against a backdrop of political rebellion: a consortium called Cable is in violent revolt against the established government, named after the three major networks: ABC, NBC, CBS. The chorus is made up entirely of next-door neighbor characters such as Gladys Kravitz (*Bewitched*) and Helen Roper (*Three's Company*) while the army is composed of Tammy Faye Bakker fembots (a fembot is an evil female robot popularized on the TV series *The Bionic Woman*).

Overarching mythology

Listening to his show's plot being explained, Drollinger cringes and laughs. "It sounds complicated but it's not really," he says. "With all these crazy people interacting and having relationships, it's like a psychotic episode of *The Love Boat*. It makes sense when you see it."

Director Charles Herman-Wurmfeld, 30, comes to *Suburbia 3000* having directed both previous installments of the trilogy. His take on the show is decidedly dramatical. "It's like an overarching mythology," he explains. "In ancient times, mythology was used to synthesize life and an understanding of the universe. In our commercial society, we identify ourselves as empty and we fail to see that we have developed a gigantic mythology through the media, especially television. D'Arcy is mining this mythology and bringing it to life in a most unique way."

Drollinger and Herman-Wurmfeld have now been working together for nearly four years, ever since Herman-Wurmfeld directed *Beach Blanket In the Black Lagoon*, in which Drollinger had a small part. The going hasn't always been easy. "We fought a lot during the first show," Drollinger recalls. "It was a good test, though, to see if we could go on. We took a little hiatus after that show, but then we moved on."



D'Arcy Drollinger

This time around, they feel like they're getting it right. Past efforts have been realized on a shoestring budget and with the good graces of cast and crew. This time they've gone legit, creating a limited partnership, putting together a 40-page prospectus and attracting serious investors. At the end of their six-week run, they hope they can move the show to another theater, possibly one downtown. Beyond this show's successful run, the duo has even greater goals: a production of the entire trilogy in the proper sequence and, perhaps, even movie versions of the shows.

Drollinger and Herman-Wurmfeld hope the whole enterprise is saved from being merely an exercise in spirited rock music and campy TV references. Herman-Wurmfeld says that through his direction, he's striving for an emotional truth, "a soul that fuses with the audience through D'Arcy's rock 'n' roll." And Drollinger, for all his kitschy television references and admiration for the likes of Buffy St. Marie and Meatloaf collaborator Jim Steinman, says his affection for pop culture is sincere. "I am in no way making fun of any of it," he says. "As a writer I'm trying

to create pop culture, and my shows come from a deep love for this stuff. I truly love it."

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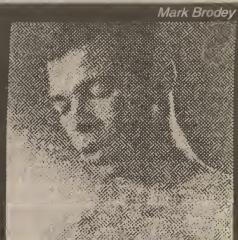
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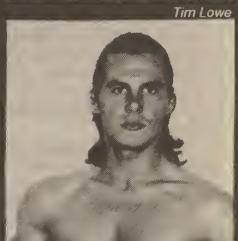
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Suburbia 3000 director Charles Herman-Wurmfeld.

OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



The Paper Plate (detail) by Andrew Bernheimer and Jared Della Valle

Centered

When I step out of my building into Ivy Alley, I can see across Davies Symphony Hall to the Opera House and City Hall beyond. The ensemble of Beaux Arts buildings which circle Civic Center is widely considered to be among the finest sets of Beaux Arts beauties extant, certainly one of the city's architectural treasures. Next time you pass by City Hall, check out how the spiral motif of its cornice is picked up in the baroque Opera House facade. It's the most beautiful duet of buildings in the city.

Not all of Civic Center is so distinguished. The entrance to the Phillip Burton Federal Building was once an infamous plaza of fountains that drenched anyone walking through, thanks to the unholy wind tunnel created by that blighted behemoth. Now the San Francisco Prize has been awarded to three design groups for their conceptions of a new plaza at 450 Golden Gate. An exhibit at SFMOMA, *Centering the Civic: The 1996 San Francisco Prize*, brings these visions to the gallery wall.

The General Services Administration will sponsor the renovation of the plaza according to the design by architectural designers Andrew Bernheimer and Jared Della Valle. Their entry calls for an inclined walkway mediating between the street and the entrance to the Burton Building. At the end of the walkway looms a construction made of stacks of used government documents. The design brings the bureaucracy symbolically down to earth.

The other winners of the design competition, landscape designer Tom Leader and architect Joseph Bula, also make good cases for their design solutions, using collage, kinetic sculpture and digital readout as part of their presentation. The next San Francisco Prize competition, originally conceived as a biennial affair, will be held this summer, thanks to the enthusiasm of an "anxious mayor," according to Curator of Architecture and Design Aaron Betsky. The mission: no less than the redesign of Union Square. ▼

"Centering the Civic: The 1996 San Francisco Prize" remains on view through July 8 at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St. Call 357-4000.



Mysterium 1997, a mystic art festival at Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, opens Friday. See listing.

Fri 21

American Artifacts

Go Play presents staging of three teleplays from the early days of television. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 3:30pm thru 4/6. \$10. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa. 621-7978.

Dance Makers

Kulintang Arts presents showcase of Asian-American/Pilipino contemporary dance and performance. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm thru 3/23. \$12.50. ODC/SF Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Dirty Little Showtunes
Musical revue by Seattle lyricist Tom Orr, extended thru 4/20. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. \$15. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-TIXS.

The Edge Festival
Marijoh Danztheatre/Force of Flight in *I, Pierre Riviere, having slaughtered my mother...*. Thurs.-Sat. thru 3/29 at 8pm. \$10. Dancers' Group Studio Theater, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

From Oaxaca
Group show of Oaxacan painters, opens tonight, 6pm. Thru 4/16. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Goldberg Street
Scenes from David Mamet's early work, incl. *All Men Are Whores: An Inquiry*. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 3/22. \$10. Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 673-7156.

MACT Video Night
Men of All Colors Together screen *A Dry White Season*. \$2. 7pm. 95 Duboce.

675-0201.

MadCat Women's Film Fest

Internat'l women's film fest, panel discussions, thru Sun. Opening night screening: *Fistful of Flies*, 7:30pm. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. 826-6017.

Mysterium 1997
A Mystic Art Festival: performances, readings, "Icon" exhibit of self-portraiture, re-

ception tonight, 8pm. Thru 3/30. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. 864-1441.

Old, Jewish and Queer
Naomi Newman in musical theatre piece that pushes boundaries of time and gender. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/30. \$12. A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 2840 Mariposa. 399-1809.

Open House
Proyecto Contraseña Por Vida celebrates 3rd anniversary. 7-9pm. 2973 16th St. 864-7278.

Pieces of the Quilt
Part of LLEGO California's 4th Latino/a AIDS Theater Festival. \$10. 8:30pm. Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 554-8436.

Singing Out Loud
"A Musical Outing of Broadway Show Tunes," 7 male vocalists and a piano. Wed.-

Sun. at 8pm thru 3/30. \$14-16. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Skin:
"The Black and White of It," theatre, dance and music solo and ensemble pieces exploring racism in the lesbian community. Tonight's perf. ASL-interpreted. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm thru 3/23. \$10-15. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. #216C. 863-2989.

Suburbia 3000
An original rock musical by D'Arcy Drorlinger, final installment of the *Brite Sleep* trilogy. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 4/26. \$14. SOMAR Theater, 995-4667.

Terry Castle

Author of *Noel Coward & Radclyffe Hall: Kindred Spirits* reads, free. 7:30pm. Boaducia's Books, 398 Colusa, Kensington. (510) 559-9184.

GAWK

Gay Artists and Writers Collective seek video editors, guitar players, music junkies and comedians. Meets Sun. at 3pm. Info: 731-2424.

Peter Weltner
Author of *Risk of His Own Music* reads, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Purim Party

Featuring "Megillah Madness" and a cappella group Jungle Red. \$7. 7:30pm. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers. 861-6932.

The Mikado

Lamplighters Music Theater presents Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*.

13 Dias/13 Days

"How the New Zapatistas Shook the World," SF Mime Troupe's multimedia play. \$15-18. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/23. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Thoth

Concert celebrating the release of their CD, *Maiden Flight*. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Two Secrets

Two short plays by Tommi Avicolli Mecca, *La Madonna Nera* and *The Edge of Forever*. Fri.-Sun. at 8:30pm. \$5. Jon Sime Center. 1519 Mission. 552-6031.

Uncle Bob

Austin Pendleton's play: uncle and nephew in verbal and psychological warfare. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm thru 3/29. \$8-12. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Sat 22

Ceremonies of Queer Love

Rituals, games, techniques and discussion, facilitated by Keith Hennessy. \$30-50. 1-6pm. 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero. 922-2385.

Deke Weaver

Mid-career retrospective of performance and video artist. \$5. 8:30pm. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

Dykes Do Attitude

Dance theater by Anne Bluthenthal, Jenna Cameron, Debby Kajiyama, Sue Roginski, Mercy Stibury. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 4/5. \$12-20. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Futura

"Latinos in da House," DJ Raymundo's CD release party. 174 King. 665-6715.

Gay Comedy Night

Suzi Berger, Scott Capurro, Rob Nash. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

LAVA Awards

5th Annual Lesbians of Achievement, Vision and Action Awards. \$100, benefits A Fund of Our Own. 6pm. Hyatt Regency, Market at Drumm. (510) 843-8048.

The Mikado

Lamplighters Music Theater presents Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*.

van's light opera. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/23. \$15-24. Lindland Theatre, Rlordan High School, 175 Phelan. 392-4400.

Night of the Living Divas

Open mike for drag performers, co-hosts Chablis, Platinum Foxx. No cover, two drink min'm. Doors 9pm, performers arrive 9:30pm, show 10pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Party for HIV+ Men

Body Positive monthly party. 7-11pm. Border Cantina, 1192 Folsom. 241-1579.

Raised Butch

Margot Lynn in solo performance which answers the question, "What are you, a boy or a girl?" With Robert Arriola in "This Is Not What I Ordered." Thru 3/23, call for dates. Tonight at 8:30pm. \$10-12. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

The Rites of Spring

Man2Man Marin's dance party for gay and bisexual men. \$5. 8pm-midnite. 46 Park, Fairfax. 457-2487.

20/20 Blake

George Coates Performance Works presents musical based on William Blake's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. \$14-34. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm extended thru 3/30. Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 392-4400.

Visions of Chiapas

Photography, video, painting and writing in honor of the people of Chiapas, Mexico, reception today, 6pm. Thurs.-Sat. thru 4/12. Collision, 417 14th St. 552-3661.

Sun 23

GAY

Gay Artists and Writers Collective seek video editors, guitar players, music junkies and comedians. Meets Sun. at 3pm. Info: 731-2424.

Peter Weltner

Author of *Risk of His Own Music* reads, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Purim Party

Featuring "Megillah Madness" and a cappella group Jungle Red. \$7. 7:30pm. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers. 861-6932.

Mon 24

Acad. Awards in Marin

Party sponsored by Spectrum's Men's Programs. \$5. 6pm. Aunt Ruby's, 815 W. Francisco, San Rafael. 457-1115 x204.

Boulevard of Dreams

The Academy of Friends' 17th Annual Oscar Night Gala, benefits AIDS services. \$125 advance, \$150 door. 5:30pm. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason. 252-0713.

An Evening with the Stars

Sonoma Co. Friends of the Oscars gala, benefits Sonoma Co. AIDS Foundation. \$75. Jockey Club, Santa Rosa. (707) 544-1215.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

MC Carla Carmony, funny performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

New Century Chamber Orchestra

World premiere of David Carlson's Cello Concerto #2, soloist Emil Miland. \$22.



Positive Lives: Responses to HIV, featuring photo essays by Gigi Cohen and Eugene Richards, on exhibit at Levi Strauss & Co. See Monday.

Gigi Cohen/Everett Collection

8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. \$39.4400.

Oscar Night at the Fringe

No-host bar, snacks, 2 big-screen TVs. \$10. 5pm. EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy. 673-3847.

A Piece of Bavaria

Authentic German dinner served, 5-8pm. \$4.75-5.75. The Gangway Bar, 841 Larkin. 885-4441.

Positive Lives

Exhibit of documentary photography exploring impact of HIV in the US, UK and South Africa. Thru 3/30. Levi Strauss Headquarters, 855 Battery. 487-3076.

Star Awards

9th Annual Napa Valley Academy Awards Benefit, special guest Martha Wash. \$50-100. 5pm. Napa Valley Expo, 575 3rd St., Napa. (707) 257-TOTO.

Tues 25

Growing in your Cultural Skin

Amorphic robot works, computer-controlled Chicano art by Chico MacMurtrie. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/26. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

The Living Brush

Exhibition of "Four Contemporary Chinese Master Calligraphers." Tues.-Sat. thru 8/14. Pacific Heritage Museum, 608 Commercial. 399-1124.

QTV

Gay and lesbian programming. Tues. at 7pm. Cable Channel 47. 956-1284.

Sappho: No Ordinary Housewife

Exhibit of life and times of Greek poet Sappho. Thru 4/30. Hormel Center, SF Main Library, Civic Center. 661-4107.

Saved

Portraits of objects by photographer J. John Priola; with Nan Goldin's "Recent Photographs," thru 4/26. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 961-2661.

Slice

Polk St.'s only all-girl event. Domimixress Ginger slings cocktails, conversation. Tues., 7pm-2am. Upstairs, Kimo's, 1351 Polk.

The Sophie Tucker Songbook

Sharon McNight's one-woman show on the life and music of legendary star. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm, Sat.-Sun. at 3pm thru 4/6. Call for ticket price. Plush Room, Hotel York. 885-2800.



Left to right: Sara Hauck as Dorothy, D'Arcy Drollinger as Superman, and Laura LeBleu as Commander Lucille B. in *Suburbia 3000*, an original rock musical at SOMAR Theatre. See Friday.

Wed 26

Darin Klein

"New Works," images of baked goods/sex ad text, Wed.-Fri. thru 3/28. ESP Exhibits, 305 Valencia. 252-8191.

Family Forum

Break-ups in gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender households. 7:30pm. Alternative Family Project, 425 Divisadero. 436-9000.

Q-Spirit Women

Spirituality group for lesbians presents "Intuition & Spirituality," lecture by Wendy Young. \$10. 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 281-9377.

The Royal Family

ACT's production of George

S. Kaufman & Edna Ferber's classic play. Tues.-Sun. thru 4/20, call for times. \$19-47.50. Tonight at 8pm. Geary Theatre, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Sarah Van Arsdale

Reading poetry, with Jewelle Gomez, free. 7pm. Barnes & Noble, 2550 Taylor. 292-6762.

Simon LeVay

Pioneering neuroscientist, author of *Queer Science* speaks, a PFLAG talk, free. 7pm. New Main, Civic Center. 557-4566.

Survival System Train

Sculpture by Kenji Yanobe on exhibit; also, Pepón Osorio's *Badge of Honor and Organically Grown Works*, Tues.-Sun. thru 6/1. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Tower of Wonders

Installation by Peter Haberkorn, Barbara Levine, Paige Ramey, thru 5/25. Picture, 524 3rd St. 543-4124.

Xtra Thick Drag Shake

Performances by Kielasia "Queen of Poland," Glamamore, Fatima, J.C. \$5. 8:30pm. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-1441.

Thur 27

Bingo

Coming Home Hospice Bingo benefits AIDS groups. 6:30pm. 100 Diamond. 552-2127.

Praise and Punishment Show

Fratelli Bologna in evening of competitive improv. Thurs. at 8pm thru 5/29. \$10. Bayfront Theatre, Bldg. B, Fort Mason. 285-4328.

Veronica Klaus

Vocalist, with Heart and Soul quartet, performs R&B cabaret. Thurs. thru March. \$5. 10pm. Cat's Grill and Alley Club, 1190 Folsom. 431-3332.

Wendy Chapkis

Reading from *Live Sex Acts: Women Performing Erotic Labors*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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Roberto Friedman
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
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Tasma Walton as Mars in Monica Pellizzari's *Fistful of Flies*, part of the MadCat Women's Film Festival at the Roxie Cinema. See Friday.

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On Tue, Wed and Fri nights, huge J/O warehouse open in addition to video room. Cool lighting, sealing, play spaces. You must check street clothes to enter both video room and warehouse on Tue and Fri nights. On Wednesday nights, you must check clothes to enter warehouse. Erotic clothing (briefs, jock straps, etc.) OK or nude, but you must wear shoes. Clothes check begins at 8pm, and warehouse open at sundown until 12M on Tue and 1am on Fri. J/O only is allowed.

Circle J Cinema 369 Ellis SF 415-474-6995 Metro: Powell

LEATHER BUDDIES

Wednesday, Mar 26th
Door 9-11, call 979-0242

The Golden Dildeaux Awards

by Mister Marcus

The awards season never seems to end, but San Francisco probably has the distinction of having the world's only sex awards. Begun in the early '70s at the infamous Boot Camp Bar, some 20 categories covering almost every sexual pursuit are voted upon by all of you for a paltry \$1 a ballot to benefit the Inter-Club Fund and Rita Rockett's Sunday Brunches at SFGH.

This year, the Golden Gate Guards MC is producing the awards, and the nominations are open now. All you have to do is go to the SF-Eagle and ask the bartender for a nominations sheet. The nominations close next Wednesday, March 26, at the end of the business day. Anyone who gets at least seven nominations will be on the final ballot.

Then the fun begins. You'll be hearing all over town: "How did I get in *that* category?" You can vote April 2-9, and each ballot will cost you \$1. The awards will be held on Friday, April 11. Former Dyke Daddy Skeeter Wildman and man-about-town George Carveras will emcee.

You can nominate people in the following categories: Punchboard Award, Top of the Year, Golden Globes (best buns), Nature Boy Award (parks and bushes) and Golden Arm Award (best FF performance).

Surely you know someone you can nominate in the Best Male Performance by a Female Impersonator (butch drag queen) category or for the Paper Wedding Dress Award (many short marriages), Voyer of the Year, Silver Lips Award (glory-hole freaks) and the Leap Frog Award (jumps from bed to bed).

A person who hasn't been laid for a long time could be nominated for the Cobweb Award, and we all know couples or singles who are eligible for Best Performance in a Three-Way. Golden shower queens abound in this town, so nominate a pal for the Prince of Piss Award. Tea room sex freaks should be in the running for the Tea Room Commando Award. All the masochists you know might be considered for The Divine Miss M Award as well.

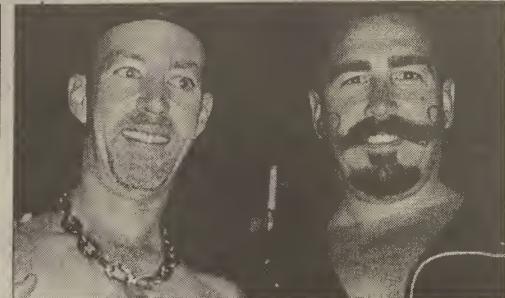
Best Female Performance by a Male Impersonator covers studs who overdo their butchness, and of course, hundreds of candidates are likely for the Size Queen Award — ditto Cockslucker of the Year. Plus, there's a dude or two who qualifies in the Dick of Death category. Best All-Around Sex is the final and top category; the winner gets the Golden Boy Award.

The awards (this year created by the talented Taurus Webster) will be presented at the Eagle on Friday, April 11, 2000-2300, with numerous presenters and some entertainment, too. Be there!

Homo on the range

Still no word on who won the Mr. Castro Station Leather '97 Contest. Apparently, they don't need the press. Are you reading this, Steve Vallone?

Last Friday night, March 14, when I walked into the Eagle



Mister Marcus

Mr. Edge Leather '97 Brian Turner (l) with runner-up Greg Lemeli.

around 2130, it was just like old times. That dizzy disco beat was gone, and one of San Diego's best DJs, John Collazo, had the crowd in ecstasy. The cruisy, upbeat and esoteric sounds made everyone feel sexy, wanted and delirious! Oh, if only it were like that all the time!

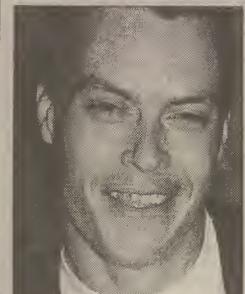
And what a crowd! It was a big gathering (very big) of hot men in leather and latex for the Water Boys party, which was sort of a meet and greet. Liaisons were arranged and gushy promises were made before they got down to the real nitty-gritty at a private location immediately following the beer bust. It was a splashy affair, if you know what I mean!

I didn't see one queen wearing a leather jacket with white sneakers! With the Eagle's 16th anniversary coming up next month (April 21-22), the whole scene was reminiscent of the days when the Eagle was the new kid on the block. Pat Batt was the manager then, and they served beer in cans only! It was also half the size it is now, and there wasn't even a patio! Thanks, Mr. Taurus, for a great evening.

Sad to report that San Francisco's female leather/SM club, The Outcasts, has decided to call it quits. In a letter dated March 8 and signed by members of the governing body, the membership was advised that the organization "has ceased to exist under that name."

Since 1984, the Outcasts have been on the local scene and had fun events, play parties and fundraisers. After their obligations are met, any remaining funds will be distributed to worthy organizations. Their silver-and-black banner will be installed in Chicago's Leather Archives & Museum.

Brush Creek Media has a new glossy magazine out: *Gay Black Men*. It hit the newsstands around



the country just last week. A quarterly, it's bound to gain adherents with all the gorgeous nudes, current trends, news, opinions, short stories and photo layouts that sizzle. But then that's only what you would expect from its editor — former Intl. Mr. Drummer Graylin Thornton!

Naturally, there will be a lot of input from black men, both in and out of leather/SM. Hey, it's only \$6.95 a copy and comes out four times a year. Go to your fave newsstand or bookstore and demand that they stock it. Subscriptions are available, too!

On Sunday evening, March 16, the second leather title contest took place at The Edge, co-produced by that cute Eric Weinmann and assisted by Alan Selby. Aside from Edge bartender Fred (a.k.a. Ms. Gay SF "Frieda") mistaking me for Ms. International Show Girl, the evening was a 10! Judges Beth Downey, Irwin Kane and Chuck Roth got to interrogate the four contestants — Brian Turner, Greg Lemeli, Steve Cook and Jesse Martinez — with their probing questions.

Danny Williams was in top form as the emcee. Gary Strickland looked just great on the last night of his reign as Mr. Edge Leather, and the new Mr. Castro Station Leather, Leif, was on hand checking out the competition.

Edge star bartender Phil D'Amico, Mr. SF Leather Gary Virginia (sporting a huge basket) and Mr. Northern California Drummer Taurus Webster were auctioned off for dinner dates, and the bidding was fast and furious. After the scores were tallied, Greg Lemeli was proclaimed the first runner-up, and Mr. Edge Leather '97 is Brian Turner.

Last night, Wednesday, March 19, Daddy's Mr. Leather '97 was chosen. Of course, it was too late for this deadline!

Always sad to report the departure of one of our leather brethren. Last Saturday night, March 15, Ralph Thurman (Mr. New England Drummer '92) passed over due to AIDS complications. Much admired, an activist and one of the first black men to win a regional Mr. Drummer competition, Ralph was friendly, a little shy, but always fun to be with. His quick wit and sometimes biting sarcasm often caught people off-guard. I last saw him at the Mr. New England Drummer contest in Boston in 1996. Ralph outdid himself with a fabulous dinner for the visiting dignitaries, judges and contestants at the home he shared with Charles Carley and his two boys. Ralph Thurman was a true leather man. We will miss him. ▀

Mr. Castro Station Leather '97 Leif will compete for Mr. SF Leather April 19.

SOCIAL SCENE**EVENTURES IN LEATHER****Thursday, March 20**

Mr. June on the BCC will be chosen tonight by judges Lou Duff, Greg Pennington and Taurus Webster. The action begins at 2200. Win \$100 in cash and a spot on the '98 calendar.

Constantines MC beer bust at Daddy's, \$7, 2000-2300, with raffle tickets and all the beer you can drink. Benefit for Rita Rockett's Sunday Brunches.

GSGRA-BAC (cowboy dudes) hosts a beer bust at The Edge. No details furnished.

Friday, March 21

The first-ever Mr. Polk Street Leather contest at the Wooden Horse at 2100. Get there early — small bar! Winner gets \$200, leather title vest, and will compete at the Mr. SF Leather contest next month. Leather Pride Week begins tonight in Seattle and culminates next weekend with the Mr. Washington State Leather contest and the Emerald Awards on Saturday, March 29. I'll be there to capture it on film and judge the contest.

Free and anonymous HIV testing upstairs at 933 Harrison (sponsored by Stop AIDS Project and Blow Buddies), 2200 to half-past midnight.

Dowager Empress Ginger celebrates birthday #76 from 2000, with a show at 2100 at Marlene's on Hayes Street. Come and cheer the old girl's spicy life.

Leather Daddy Loren and Daddy's Bay Joey host "Spring Has Sprung" \$6 beer bust at the Eagle, 2000-2300, with raffle tix, prizes and entertainment.

In the Big Apple? They're choosing Mr. L.U.R.E. Leather '97 at that world-famous bar tonight. Check with them as to time, price, etc.

Saturday, March 22

The Cable Car Awards & Show at the Gift Center, honoring men and women in our community for their talent, longevity and good works. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the show starts at 8 p.m. Co-chairs Linda Parios and Marcus-Jay Wonacott and the board of directors have been working very hard to bring you a real spectacular!

Cruising In New Mexico? They're choosing Mr. and Ms. New Mexico Leather at The Ranch in Albuquerque. The big kahunas of leatherdom will be there judging, and on Sunday, March 23, former IMs-L Cindy Bookout will take marriage vows to Margaret Blakesley in an elaborate ceremony at the Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church. Thanks, James Collins and Leslie Anderson, for a good and fun year with the title.

In Grand Rapids, they'll be choosing Mr. Michigan Leather at The Cell. The emcee for this one is Mr. Cell Block Leather (Chicago) Brian-Mark Conover.

Hands on Ropes session by Lou Duff, 1300-1600, at the Power Exchange, 74 Otis. Call 550-0122 for more info.

Pegasus MOC one-day ride to Mt. Diablo and the Behring-Blackhawk Auto Museum. Leaving from the Castro Station at 0900. Non-members bring \$8 for museum entry and money for lunch.

Sunday, March 23

The Phoenix Uniform Club hosts the Eagle beer bust, 1500-1800, with "Uniforms of the World" contest. \$8 for beverages and food. Dennis Silva will do his Danny Williams imitation!

GSGRA-BAC hosts a beer bust, 1500-1900, at The Cinch on Polk Street. No other details furnished.

Monday, March 24

Hands on Ropes session, 1900-2200, at Castlebar by Lou Duff. The subject(s) tonight: "Restriction and Hogtie."

Cigar Night at Daddy's with a \$7 beer bust includes one cigar in the rear of the bar. See the men drink beer. See them smoke cigars. See George choke!

Wednesday, March 26

Golden Gate Guards MC \$7 beer bust at Daddy's, 2000-2300, includes a beard contest. No other contest details furnished. The Guards' Sam Medrano went to Sydney for Mardi Gras and hasn't been seen since!

It's the third Wednesday of the month and that means Leather Buddies party at 933 Harrison. Leather and boots mandatory. No cologne. Overdose on butch pills.

Thursday, March 27

Mr. San Francisco Eagle Leather contest at 2100. Judges Graylin Thornton, Joe Farla, Jon Ayers, Tommy Thomas and Mr. S manager Richard Lester will pick the man who'll win \$300, leather title vest, belt and entrée to Mr. SF Leather in April. Always a packed house for this sterling event!

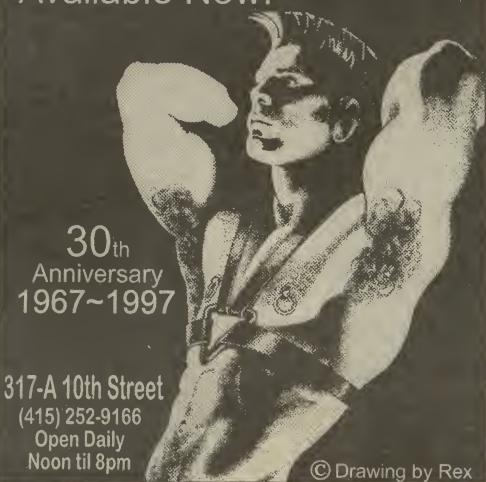
Saturday, March 29

Mr. Washington State Leather '97 contest at Neighbors in Seattle. Again, the big kahunas of leatherdom will be there judging and having a ball (or two) in the Queen City of the Northwest. I'll be there and bring you the results plus photos.

a taste of leather

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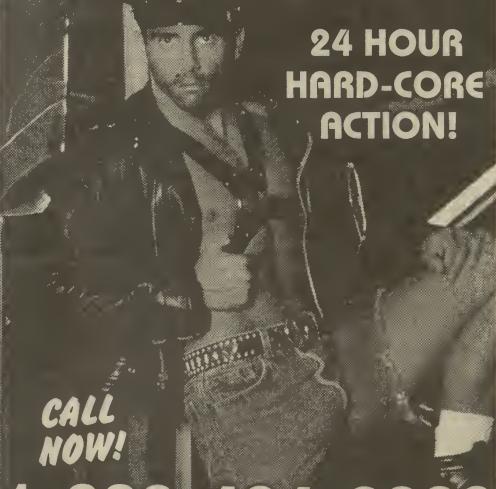
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Ride 'em, cowgirls!

by Sweet Lips

On Saturday, March 29, 3-7 p.m., the Lone Star Saloon (9th and Harrison) will be throwing one of its fab BBQs (ask for the special sauce!) for the Gay Rodeo. As you know, manager Jerry Olsen goes all out for these affairs, so be prepared for range and rump riders, roping, branding and god knows what else! I will be there, of course, as Miss Dale Evans, Queen of the West. There is, however, no truth to the rumor that Greta ("The Great") Grass will be doing her much heralded Buttercup imitation (maybe Nellie Belle). Happy trails, everyone!

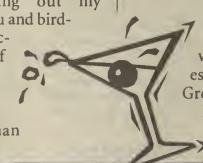
The delectable Dolly Dale is blowing into town today (March 20) from Alabama with a banjo on her knee (not to mention some water) to celebrate her golden birthday — No. 50 — with her buddy, Dick Cook. To mark this august occasion, Dick will be having a lavish donut soirée for Dolly on Sunday, March 23, 7-9 a.m., at Reflections (1160 Polk). And as if that weren't enough, David Kapp and yours truly will be having a snack fest for Dolly at ye olde PR (1303 Polk), 9 a.m.-noon.

Speaking of hitting the half-century mark, Little Joe at the Wooden Horse (622 Polk) will be hosting a 50th birthday bash for the ever-popular A.L. Allen on Good Friday, March 28, at 9 p.m., with the show starting an hour

later.

Of course, tomorrow night, Friday, March 21, is the big event we've all been awaiting: the birthday extravaganza for ageless Empress Ginger XIV, who's turning 76! The fun begins at Marlene's (488 Hayes) with hors d'oeuvres at 8 p.m. and a special showgirl review at 9 p.m. Please wear feathers! I'm breaking out my renowned marabou and bird-of-paradise Balenciaga in honor of Ginger! You didn't think I'd miss a party for someone actually older than moi, did you? I thought not.

Yes, I'm getting tired of all these natal obser-



Cocktail Hour

it to the beach this time. After all, these bikini waxes aren't cheap! We'll be heading out on Tuesday, March 25, at 8 a.m. from Reflections in a swank limo (natch!) driven by Mr. Rick Zonne. Complimentary cocktails, you ask? Of course! It's the only way to travel — just don't hand me the keys!

Don't forget David Kapp's Academy Awards party on Monday, March 24, at the PR, with prizes and surprises. As a special treat, Greta, Grass, Empress Bella, Little Joe, Dennis "Mangos and Matzos" Tyler and Cockatilia will be acting out all the love scenes from *The English Patient*, but if I don't list them, my drink comps dry up like that! So — Robbie (aka Helen Trent) will be lapping up his ice cream and cake on Sunday, March 30, and my good Sausalito friend, T.J. Buckley, will be doing the same the next day. Then it's B.A.R. publisher Bob Ross' turn to be another year older on Wednesday, April 2.

After the PR's do for Dolly on the 23rd, stick around for the "Adios" par-tay (noon-2 p.m.) for Dick Deemer, Burton Dreyer and me, as we wind our way to the land of hombres and iguanas, Puerto Vallarta. Yes, we're heading down south for more fun in the sun, and perhaps I'll really make

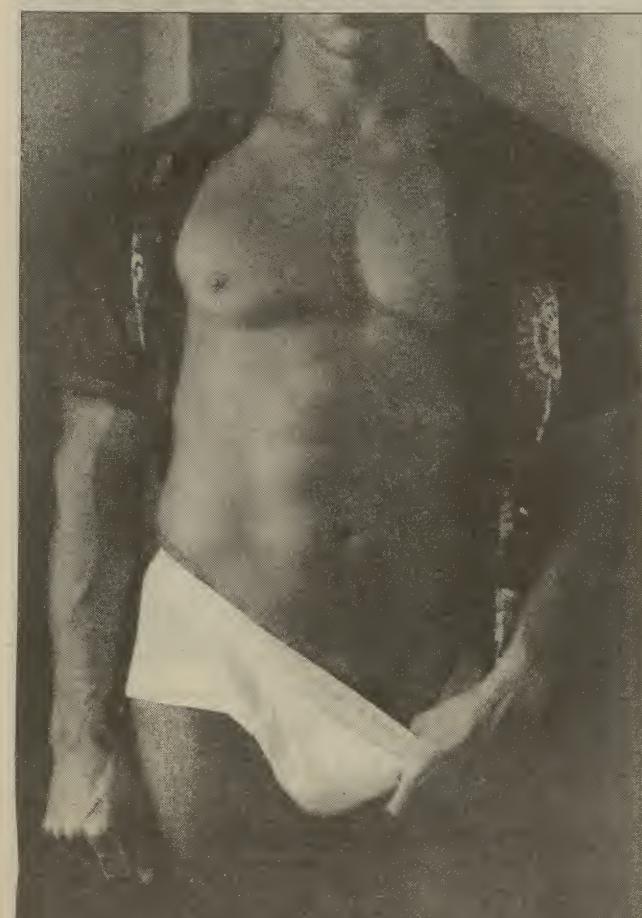
a sight you won't soon forget!

Ginger's Trois (246 Kearny) is now open on Saturdays, 2-10 p.m., with beauteous bartender Ben serving up luscious libations. Check out the new decor by Mason in the men's room. I have, and it looks good from every possible angle.

Pieter Nelemans of Rotterdam wishes to thank all his pals here, especially Ann, for his wonderful surprise birthday package.

Vaughn Jones is tinkling the ivories over at The Swallow (1750 Polk) on Wednesday evenings to great acclaim. Hope the Easter Bunny leaves a big basket on your doorstep on the 30th! □

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PARTING GLANCES

2/20 Midnite Hamburger Mary SJ
You smoked and had a drink with your (bodyguard?). Exchanged glances when you left. I love your smile in your eyes, so beautiful to this GAF. Together sometime? ☎ 5201.

P. Camarda Would You Call Again
I only have part of your number, and I would like very much to talk to you. Thank you, S. Stevens. ☎ 5202.

Handsome Carlos
met at Fag Fridays, you had out of town guest. Wanted your number before I left but couldn't find you. Want a date with you. Blond Mike with motorcycle. ☎ 5203.

Wrong Phone Number
Jan, you replied to a Bar Talk ad in Bay Area Reporter on 2/23 under "Fetishes" Sca! Water sports, phone # was wrong, you left for me. ☎ 5204.

Dear John
We met Friday 2/21. Would like to see you again briefly as it may have to. Can't seem to get your big beautiful dick out of my mind. Ron. ☎ 5205.

Valentina On Burnett Ave
Me: older 40+, Lesbian crossing upper Burnett Ave, You: blond in a blue? truck almost running over me. Curse smile!! Like to meet you. ☎ 5206.

Central Y Sauna About 3 Weeks Ago
And, in elevator months ago. Let's continue where we left off. Call now! ☎ 5202.

Xtra Hairy Red/Farmer's Market
Wed. Sept. 4 at 3 PM. You: xtra hairy red head, sunglasses, backpack, short hair, sideburns. Me: WM, flat-top, green glasses, green & blue shirt, followed you in & out of library. Saw your blue boxer shorts. I was too excited to speak. Please call. ☎ 5301.

Ultimate Ear Ornament
You: shaved head, bushy goatee, silver bar piercing in right ear—h!t!—Me: 6', beard, short clipped hair. You wear black T-shirt, white levis, studded belt, tattooed arms. I'm blond, mustache, denim shirt & jeans waiting for bus. I'm yours—please call! ☎ 5402.

Sunday March 2, 6PM Harvest
We caught each other's eye twice, while shopping. You have curly blond hair, wore a sweater. I have dark hair, short beard, glasses, wore brown jacket. Let's meet, talk. ☎ 5304.

GGB Beach Trails Feb. 22
Me: tan construction boots, Khaki shorts, short dark blonde messy hair. You: tall, brown hair, white sweatshirt, jeans. I said hello. You were cold and left. You're cute! ☎ 5305.

Thurs Feb. 20th During 'Friends'
You: Italian "Darwin." Me: Italian "Doc." Us Cereal Shoppers. Let's keep in touch. Call. ☎ 5307.

George In The Red Long Johns
I met you at Castro Station, Sunday night February 23. Please call John on 18th Street. ☎ 5308.

Art After Modernism 3/5
Is there such a thing? Can't stop thinking of our meeting at the beach. Too nervous to tell you I enjoyed myself and I want to meet again. Anthony. ☎ 5401.

Chris, We Met At Castro Muni
You were wearing large chain around waist, riding bike. March 1st about noon. We talked then hugged, as you rode away you said I love you. Please call Bruce, cause I need another bear hug from you! ☎ 5306.

3/5 U-Wt Pick-up Vry Hr W/Bd
4:30 PM Castro & Duboce—you're wearing black T-shirt, white levis, studded belt, tattooed arms. I'm blond, mustache, denim shirt & jeans waiting for bus. I'm yours—please call! ☎ 5402.

A Quarter To Pumpkin Time
Michael from Lafayette park, Monday night the 10th. Regret not dragging you home or at least getting your number...let's...again. ☎ 5403.

Bon From Fremont
Powerhouse 3/10. Enjoyed giving you a back rub. How about full body next time? Won't have friend this time. Hands are waiting. Robert from Sacramento. ☎ 5404.

Superstar Video
You noticed I wasn't wearing my glasses. You asked why, I told you. You came back a week later, I was wearing my glasses, I haven't seen you since. ☎ 5405.

3/10 Spike's Coffee Shop 5:30
You: dark hair, handsome, said your name was Vinson, drove a black car. We talked awhile would like to talk more, please call. ☎ 5406.

3/6 Blond Boy N' Touch
You sat next to me during show. I was in black tee and vest. Too shy to speak, would like to meet you. ☎ 5463.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino, 31, black hair, brown eyes, 5'7", 150#, with goatee, professional, HIV-. Looking for GWM or Hispanic between 25-37, for friendship or maybe more. Call me. ☎ 5207.

Sleepless In San Francisco
HIV+, 30+, Puerto Rican 150#, 8', handsome, crew cut w/ short hair for movies, walks, need for tea. Sex: male/male! I stick you, you stick me. Call. Many often no. Wh/European/Latino only pls. ☎ 5208.

HIV+ Monog Spiritual Hon RmnT
That's what I am & looking for, 38, 5'11", thin, musc, build. Smoker, ND. No drinking, no games, starting to take care of body & mind. Friends, poss relationship. ☎ 5209.

Looking For Fun Sexy Short Men
Pierced, tattooed, 31, into intense music, HIV+, with beautiful eyes & smile looking for similar for lots of versatile sex & friendship. Prefer dark, hairy, short, well built, fun guys. ☎ 5210.

Wanna Plunge Into Paradise?
GWM, 35, 5'6", 130, red/blond, blue, needs man with free days. I offer honesty, humor, hungry as & mouth to loving guys. Me: homebody. You: open minded, loyal, eager to share life together. ☎ 5211.

Attractive GAM Seeking Lover
Mature GAM, 36, 5'6", 135#, HIV+, & extremely healthy. Seeking GWM under 40, versatile, in shape, to share the secret life and not afraid of commitment. Serious replies only. ☎ 5212.

Little Bro Seeks Big Brother
30 yr, GLM, 5'11", 165#, slim build bottom seeks GBM, 30-45 yrs, for fun/or poss LTR. Let's get together & see what develops. No fats, fens & liars. SF only. ☎ 5213.

German Bi Born 66 Apart Castro
Blond, blue green eyes, hairy, short hair, uncut, unique legs dominate, but tender. Berlin raver, now downtown/Nob Hill, smoker, need you up to 35. ☎ 5214.

Handsome Latino
5'9", 155#, 32, looks younger, smooth body-face, likes the outdoors, healthy life, seeks mature under 42, in good shape, male, any race for friendship possibly LTR. EB A+. ☎ 5215.

Caring, Honest and Real
24yo, GWM, 6'1", 208#, brn/blue, HIV+, seeks GWM or GLM, 25-45, for friendship, poss relationship, with varied interests, affection and honesty. Pls no "tricks." ☎ 5216.

Seen Red Head
GWM, 5'11", 165#, HIV-, clean cut, brown/brown ISO of attractive red heads between 20-37 for friendship, fun. ☎ 5217.

I SO Blue Collar Workers
SGBM, 45, 6'3", 210 #, ISO of blue collar worker types. Race/age open. Masc, muscular, long hair, hairy plus. For friendship and fun. ☎ 5218.

Waiting To Exhale
GWM, 35, 5'11", 190#, brn hair/eyes. Trim, muscular build, handsome, hairy, hairy, masculine, professional, HIV-, top seeks GBM, similar age, attributes; HIV prop. for dating & poss LTR. ☎ 5219.

Slim Gdlikn Hip Retired Guy
Mustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, in good shape, versatile, HIV-, seeks similar slim, 50+, facial hair guy. Short, small dick OK. Smoke OK. Safe only! ☎ 5220.

Caring Latino Artist 56 Seeks
Younger Asian for friendship poss. LTR. Enjoy nature, classical music, lit, quiet eyes. ☎ 5221.

Charming, Cutie GWM Seeks...
Handsome, smooth, dark-haired, SWB, 5'8", 150#, professional for late night drives, soft kisses, and uninhibited laughter. I'm 29, lean, blond, and professional. Hopefully, you're just a normal guy like me! ☎ 5222.

Hopeful Romantic Pos Man
GWM, 43 yr, 5'11", 180#, muscular, dark hair/eyes, hairy, good build, lean, outdoorsy, likes riding, hiking, travel, cooking, old movies, beaches, kissing, romance, honesty, passion, commitment, hot sex, relationship! ☎ 5223.

I SO 40-50yr Jock/Exec.
Mature, intelligent, masculine, classy, sincere, very handsome, healthy, HIV+, quality GWM 34, 5'9", 150 lb. ISO of larger, fit, masculine, distinguished jock/exec, 40-50 yr, for high quality LTR. Sincere men only. ☎ 5223.

Senior Looking For Junior
GWM, retired, will financially assist student, artist, intern etc. in exchange for occasional assignations. Must be 19-30 yrs, friendly, affectionate, caring. ☎ 5226.

Seeking Romance
Goodlooking GWM, 39, 6', 185#, & HIV-, Is seeking friends, & more. I'm looking for Asian or Hispanic men who are positive, 25-35, NS/ND, & a light drinker. ☎ 5407.

Mutato Guy

Intelligent, highly-educated, sexy,

goodlooking, seeks secure male for

relationship or fun & good times. ☎ 5417.

Romantic Dreamer—Sexy Poet
Nordic Blonde blue eyed, self-employed writer-photographer, early 40's, in shape, & lovable. Seeks: LTR with 23-37 yo, dark-haired; eyes-mirror-soul. You: pre-med A+, collegiate type, handsome humorous, HIV-, unite, talents 4 success! ☎ 5318.

Dutiful Companion Desired
Respectable, conservative gentleman is older & sadistic/masochistic. Private places in Healdsburg and SF. ☎ 5224.

Muscle Bear ISO Gorilla For LTR
Hunky, very hairy chrome-domed bear, 5'8", 160#, ISO gorilla-hairy mate for LTR. Healthy HIV+; you into muscle, working out, bear-on-bear licking and sucking and fucking. ☎ 5225.

Father-Son-Grandson
You: young & slender & Smooth. Me: 6', 175#, Age: 74. Open relationship. ☎ 5227.

Cum Freak
Wants to become world's best cock-sucker to maximize loads. Already invited onto US Olympic cockslucking team! (OK, provided I get—guess how—member of crack German Team to defect). ☎ 5228.

Ready For Love Again
GAM, 35, 5'10", 165#, HIV-, good-looking, incurable romantic, lonely but shouldn't be 'cuz now I'm ready. ISO same GAM/GWM. ☎ 5309.

Honesty Is The Best Policy!
Goodlooking, youthful, 42yo, 5'9", 160 lbs, blue eyes, fair, blonde, HIV+, healthy with a great smile. Attracted to masculine goodlooking Latin men/dark feature men for dating with poss. of relationship. ☎ 5310.

San Jose Asian Bottom
28, 5'4", 120#, HIV-, smooth skin, athletic, seeks GWM/GAM top, 25-35, goodlooking, fit, masculine, no drugrat, HIV-. Prefer live in or travel to SJ. Sex, friendship & more. ☎ 5311.

Mr. Good Enough
Prof. GWM, early 50's, love to receive & give, slim, runner's body, with goatee & short hair. Lives outside SF looking for great smile & youthful face on confident & nurturing male. Prefer NS & healthy. Friends, LTR? ☎ 5312.

Love GWM
Slim, 5'10", 160#, 38 year old, like moving, dancing, NS, live in Napa. Looking for GWM, 35 to 45, slim for LTR. ☎ 5313.

Oh No! I've Come To This.
GLM, 26, teacher, artist with photo fetish...ISO something more meaningful than a quickie. Coffee maybe? Scruffy queer boys (w/jobs). Welcome to call. ☎ 5314.

First Time, Be Gentle
Intense-looking man, 28, new to CA seeking laid-back queers for friendship. I'm funny, friendly, not BS. Into travel, scuba, dancing, Star Trek. Wanna show me around? ☎ 5315.

Bottom GWM 29 ISO Top
For hot sweaty workouts at the gym, followed by hot sex. Let my mouth & butt service your big muscle meat. Both of us HIV- & ND. ☎ 5316.

Knock, Knock/Whose There? Me!
Charmingly cute, professionally creative, exceptionally kissable, hopelessly romantic GAM. Early 30's, 5'11", 150#. You? GWM, late 20's to 30's, sun, qualities, w/ht prop, to share/pursue a loving passionate & adventurous relationship together! ☎ 5317.

Fine Line Between Good/evil
GWM, 28, fit, NS, sexy, sassy, playful, moody, sarcastic, hip. You: white, under 33, fit, NS, sexy, sassy, playful, moody, sarcastic & hip. Note category. ☎ 5319.

Sexual Healing
GWM top, prof, 40's, ISO GWM bottom, 50 yrs or above who's physically & emotionally available to pursue a LTR. I'm a lite smoker & drinker. You must be medium to stocky built. ☎ 5320.

Aries, Aquarius, Scorpio Wndt
You: 30-40, sense of humor, natural, jeans, barefoot & passion. I'm Swiss, 33, 5'8", 150, sexy, dark hair, brown eyes, sensible, cute who seeks friendships & integration of SF. ☎ 5321.

I Have Everything Except...
GAM, 26, 5'8", 135#. Professional, fit, smooth, outdoorsy, independent, mellow, outgoing, non-smoker, seeks similar GAM, 23-33, for friends/LTR. You're out there...Gimme a call! ☎ 5322.

Afternoon Delight (Or Any Time)
Seeking GWM 35-45, healthy, fit, hairy & hung very/btm for sex. W/GWM 40, 190#, 5'11", Italian, hirsute, fit, hung, top. SF. ☎ 5234.

East Bay Pork Jack Off
Tape in VCR, your hand around my 7" thick dick, mine around yours, stroke, relax, strok, etc., then white gushes flow. HIV+, any age/size, but good cock to grab onto. ☎ 5235.

GWM 35 Seeks Guys 18-30 4 Sex

Weekly meetings 4 sex, sex, and sex. Group sex is OK too. Bring your boyfriend. Serious and cute only. Must be HIV- and no drugs. ☎ 5236.

Great Service Bottom

Total bottom. Attractive, clean cut,

Daddy, 5'9", 155#, hairy chest, 30

waist, deep throat, hot bottom, hungry mouth at your service. Some AM's PM's. ☎ 5237.

Ride On My Bushy Musclesh

And feel my long tongue to your hot butt. Me: 6', 165#, bm/blu, 37. You:

hot & ready. ☎ 5238.

Mexican Lover Wndt Napa/Solano
Passionate, masculine WM of Latin background, 38, 5'9", 180#, interests include: quiet home life, nature, road trips, low riders, sailing. Not into the gay scene. Monogamous relationship preferred Joe. ☎ 5408.

Be Realistic
No such thing as stable gay relationship. Seeking someone for sex, sex. No commitment. Me: 30, 5'11", 180#, straight acting, muscular. You: 25-40, well built (bodybuilder +), no drugs. ☎ 5409.

Lonely Handsome Goatee BB
GWM, 33yo, 6', 210#, career oriented. Seeks GWM w/intellectives: 1) 28-35yo (male) 2) 30-40yo (female) 3) 40+ (male) 4) 40+ (female). LTR MUST be one of your goals. Little body hair pried, not nec'y. ☎ 5410.

Life Is A Banquet—Let's Enjoy
GWM, 42yo, academic, newly settled in Berkeley seeks friend(s) for weekend activities, dining, & intelligent conversation. Not looking for a sex partner just a friendly companion. ☎ 5411.

Good Company Is Hard To Find
Gay Filipino, 27, intelligent, fun, goodlooking, dry sense of humor, seeks GWM, mid 20's, fit, smart, witty, funny, for great conversations, dinner & much more. ☎ 5412.

Handsome Muscular Italian
6'2", 180#, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times, sees another HIV-, extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 5413.

Very Attractive Latin 26
I'm HIV+, 5'7", 165#, muscular, solid build, extremely intelligent, seeking Latinos or Caucasians under 35 for friendship, maybe more. NS & open-minded only. ☎ 5414.

You Can Have It All
Hot GWM top, ISO hot bottom boy for fun & maybe more. UB: 30-40, GWM/GLM, good shape, clean shaven. Me: 45, 5'9", 145#, well equipped, secure, open & caring. ☎ 5415.

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino, 31, 5'7", 150#, HIV-, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, looking for GWM for friendship or maybe more. Between 25 and 37 years old. NS. Call me. ☎ 5416.

Strict But Caring Leather Top
Seeks submissive boy-slave, 25-35, short, slim or gym-toned for domination, bondage, moderate SM, dog training, symphony, theater, etc. Brains a must, good looks desirable possible LTR. ☎ 5418.

Cute Face And Horny Guy Wanted
By Latino 27, 5'11", not versatile and Caucasian 30, 6'1" versatile top; both attractive in decent shape looking for the same. ☎ 5229.

Top Fist Bonk Idles
Goodlooking, proportionate, 6'1", 40's, trim, seeking proportionate fist bottom. ISO gaining experience. Once or reg. basis. Younger, hung, uncut, BB=pluses. ☎ 5230.

Seeking Executive Type Male
37-52ish. Like dark features, hair & eyes, beer belly OK. Me: 26, French/German. 5'10", 150#, swimmer build, Scorpio, green eyes, employed...new to SF would like some company. ☎ 5231.

Santa Rosa Passive Bottom
29 yo, 5'9", 150#, brt/grr, into muscle worship, tattoos, aggressive tops under 30 yrs, with 7' or more. I have place, videos, libe. Let's party all night. ☎ 5232.

Can U Recommend Latin Meat
From native habitats? Plan tropical trip-trip. Advice from your trip could save time & \$\$. Don't need conde nast, only 2 pump you 4 info. ☎ 5233.

Afternoon Delight (Or Any Time)
Seeking GWM 35-45, healthy, fit, hairy & hung very/btm for sex. W/GWM 40, 190#, 5'11", Italian, hirsute, fit, hung, top. SF. ☎ 5234.

Central Y Sauna About 3 Weeks Ago
And I continue where we left off. Call now! ☎ 5302.

Hot Piece Of Muscle Ass Wanted
Dominant, muscular, fuck stud, versatile, 37, 6'1", 185#, seeks boys/men, 20-38, with hot muscle butts who want their rock hard bodies filled by my rock hard 8" dick. Do it! ☎ 5239.

Black Latin Men Of Color
Handsome, prof, masc, BM, 6', 200#, 9 1/2" uncut, very clean, discreet, HIV-, seeks attractive, 25-45, well hung 9"+ and/or hairy big round butt, thick legs A+. Fuck, fuck, ☎ 5240.

Submissive And Collared
Collared GWM, 37, needs your leash and whip. Attr, non-smoking, submissive, 5'10", SF male seeking attr, GM, oral service, submission. ☎ 5241.

Cum Hungry In Contra Costa!
GWM, 31, you like boyish looks and bod needs hot masculine, in shape men, 25-40, with large loads lust to explode in my warm mouth. ☎ 5242.

10 For Ten
I'll whip out 10 inches of sweet black meat; you have to minutes to pop it. 6 am and 11 pm in the East Bay. Deep throat experts only! ☎ 5243.

Get Serviced By 2 Hot Bottoms
One of us wants to be your pussy boy while the other sucks you off or ass-tie your ass. We're hungry and insatiable. Try us this weekend. ☎ 5244.

Older Seeking Younger Man
Under 40 for going Daddy-son, master-slave, scenes. I'm an attr. GWM, 73, 5'8", 165#, who values friendships. ☎ 5245.

Romantic Bottoms?
Average looking, nice, interesting, 5'6", 135#, blondish, 40, top, 8", seeking average or plain looking, easy going bottom, any race, weight prop. height, 25-40, for bareback sex, friendship, maybe LTR. ☎ 5246.

Tie You Up & Tie Me Down
Attractive GWM gym-toned, 35, 5'9", 150#. I'm seeking someone to explore S&M, bondage for erotic torture pleasure. You must be under 45, in good shape, muscular A+. Let's talk soon! ☎ 5247.

Black? Hung?
Big hunk (serious) looking for black guys with huge dicks to fuck my unbearable ass. There is no such thing as too big. ☎ 5248.

Non-Mainstream Man W/Big Cock
F*ck face for days. Seeks on-going associations for regular service. Age, race, unimportant. Enthusiasm, endurance essential. ☎ 5249.

Street Skaters
I am a fairly good rink skater seeking to meet street skaters for skating companionship & info about things to do & places to go which involve this sport. 5'10", 175#, thin build, nice guy! ☎ 5250.

Naked At The Door
Have you ever answered your door stark naked? Learn, masculine WM, 40, seeking young guys with tight trim builds to interview for sex & nudity survey. ☎ 5251.

Let's Dock And J/O
Wrap your skin around my swollen dick head. Rub our hot boner tips together. Make our loads ooze around the edges. Open to other penis play. I'm 43, 5'9", 150#, bald, furry, good body, godlookin'. ☎ 5252.

Romancing The Bone
Handsome guy 6'1", 185#, 35, enjoys blowing guys with big dicks. ☎ 5253.

I Wanna Suck Your Butt
Italian whore, 43, 6', 190#, goatee, wants to bury my tongue up your hot, clean butt. Late night (12-5AM) Sex in the Castro. Call & get off tonight! ☎ 5254.

Down On The Monterey Peninsula
Godlookin guy, HIV-, 26 yr old, 6'4", 195 lbs, sends an extended invitation to enjoy!!? Hopes to hear from you! Go for it! ☎ 5255.

Hot Muscle Jocks & Bodybuilder Wanted!
Get erotic massage & vids. Ricky. ☎ 5326.

Naturally All Top Or Bottom?
Not "politically correct" but know who you are & would rule trading an unnatural turn-off? tell me about yourself & let's explore our common desires, interests, and needs. ☎ 5237.

Longhaired Unite!
30y, 6', 155#, European w/thick long wavy brown hair seeks androgynous, pretty or feminine man w/full head of long hair. ☎ 5238.

V Hung Black Men Hot & Verbal
WM, 40's, hairy, slim, hot, sexy, HIV- ISO sex buddy. Discreet only for hot oral mutual swallowing. ☎ 5329.

Ready For More Serious SM, BD
Together slim, fit, early 50's, professional GWM increasingly identifying with submissive nature ISO dominant top partner for serious SM, BD, WS, & fantasy exploration. We are both HIV-, play safe. ☎ 5343.

Asians W/Prince Albert Into Verbal abuse & giving orders. In shape, 30, hairy man, you be very in shape, too. ☎ 5330.

Weekday Afternoon Dick—
Thick, hard, rechargeable to fill your throat or butt. I'm hairy, bearded GWM, 45, overweight—with place & car weekday afternoons. Any race. ☎ 5331.

Young College Guy Seeks Same
21 y/o white college guy seeks other college guys for fun times, hot sex, dance clubs, working out, tennis, beach, movies, long talks, warmth, intimacy, cuddling, adventures, understanding, & openness. ☎ 5332.

Santa Rosa Area Dildo Action
Attractive GWM bottom exhibitionist seeks tops for nasty dildo play. Interests include big toys, dirty talk, mirrors, possibly video taping. SF also. All call returned. Let's play with my hole! ☎ 5333.

Bend Over/Drop Pants/Spread Em
You know it—I know it—you need a spanking. You're 18-33, attractive, with nice round bottoms. Submit "boy" to firm but fun-loving, handsome chunky "Uncle." Asshole finding an option! ☎ 5334.

I Am A BM 38
6'1", 195#, looking for someone 18-50, fun. Must be hairy 9" or more. I want to B.J. you. ☎ 5335.

Uncut Sexy Young
Me: 5'6", 152#, hair S&P, hazel eyes, big mustache. Likes to make love, bicycle, movies, garden, sun, ND/S. Nine OK. Call again I missed your message. ☎ 5336.

Oral Foreplay Then Fuck Me!
Tops wanted by godlookin GWM, 6'3", 170#, 47, S&P hair, brown, mustache, goatee, smooth. Prefer HIV+, W/H, smokers who know who they are & what they want. N/D, N/S&M. ☎ 5337.

Too Big For Your Britches?
WM, 37, muscular, hot, handsone. ISO xtra hunx men for daytime action. Serious only. ☎ 5338.

SF & N. Bay Bottom

GWM w/hot, tight, hairy, small ass. Seeking hung men that love to fuck. Let's explore more w/my ass. I'm very clean & horny & like to suck cock. I'm 56, 160, blu/blu, HIV-, 5'2", mustache. I'll try anything once!!! Wkday eve, wknds. ☎ 5339.

Take Charge Top

No BS man, 40, 5'10", 160, 8", work out, seeks in shape, submissive younger guy to work over. Into: verbal abuse, oral service, collars, rim sex, diapers, bondage, long sessions. ☎ 5340.

GLM ISO GWM/GBM

For discrete encounters, my place, late afternoons, early evenings. Me: 30 yrs, 5'11", HIV-, bottom, slim. You: 6' or taller, 35-50 yrs, HIV-, top, facial hair preferred. ☎ 5341.

SO Over 50 WM Gun Job Wanted

Wanted, 44, 5'10", 165 lbs., med blu, brbr, musta, smoker, HIV-, 7"X5 1/2" cut cock ringed meat, kicks back for hung deep throater. I will come to your service only. ☎ 5342.

Expert Cock sucker

Senior GWM, 130#, begs to worship masc, verbal topman, over 40, wgt, proportion, Cau or Asian. ☎ 5344.

Submissive Boy Seeks Dom Top

Love to be fucked. Into leather & uniforms. Like to be fucked, Blacks, Latinos & Italians especially welcomed. Call now. ☎ 5345.

Folie A Deux?

WM, 50, blond, bearish, still HIV-, anti-social, seeks sexual or other partner for outdoors (Pt. Reyes, Filbert Steps) and outdoors (Lumiree, Wukong). No gateres. Man enough? ☎ 5436.

Seeking Dominant Young Men

18-32 to use & degrade godlookin, tall, fit, hairy butch dad, 41. Into macho, built tough guys, especially skinheads or short punks who'll verbally abuse me & make me suck, rim, worship boots, drink piss. ☎ 5436.

Seeking Dominant Young Men

18-32 to use & degrade godlookin, tall, fit, hairy butch dad, 41. Into macho, built tough guys, especially skinheads or short punks who'll verbally abuse me & make me suck, rim, worship boots, drink piss. ☎ 5436.

Top Wanted
Masculine, gym toned, attractive WM bottom, 35, 5'10", 170#, seeks in shape top between 21-40, for safe sex encounters. ☎ 5419.

Weekday Afternoon Dick—
Thick, hard, rechargeable to fill your throat or butt. I'm hairy, bearded GWM, 45, overweight—with place & car weekday afternoons. Any race. ☎ 5331.

Young College Guy Seeks Same
21 y/o white college guy seeks other college guys for fun times, hot sex, dance clubs, working out, tennis, beach, movies, long talks, warmth, intimacy, cuddling, adventures, understanding, & openness. ☎ 5332.

Santa Rosa Area Dildo Action

Attractive GWM bottom exhibitionist seeks tops for nasty dildo play. Interests include big toys, dirty talk, mirrors, possibly video taping. SF also. All call returned. Let's play with my hole! ☎ 5333.

Anal Slutmaster

I want to stick my rock hard dick (8") up your rock hard body. Put our Queen muscle boys! Tight muscle butt muscle waist! 31" or less demanded. Fuck! Fuck! Fuck! ☎ 5423.

Dominant Dad

Dad, 50, in shape, 6', 185# seeks sons, 20-35, for B/D, hole exploration, adoption & caring. ☎ 5424.

Seeking Private SF Glory Hole

Bi/WM, 40's, HIV-, average build needs through your private hole, 2-3 week. You: HIV-, slim or muscular, expert deep throat cum lover. I cum several times per visit. ☎ 5425.

Strip!

Ever fantasize being made to strip in front of a group of guys? Group now forming. Be 25-50, fit, masculine, creative. Call with your stats & fantasy. ☎ 5427.

Afternoon Sex Bottom Wanted

Ass massage-erotic spanking, repeated stinging will turn to a pleasurable sensation after awhile if done right. Me: attrac, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250 lbs, husky. You: attrac, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate hair, nice buns. ☎ 5428.

Holiday Bottom

Handsome HIV+ Italian Top guy—20. I'm 30-40. I'm 40. I'm 36, 6'2", 185#, nice shape with big hands & bigger heart. I like massage, good books, good wine & bottom boys. ☎ 5429.

Wrestler Wanted

By same. Big bear, hairy, 40, all +. For hot sweating matches. Serious only. Out is better. ☎ 5430.

Hot Fucking Man To Man Sex

And lots of it. I'm handsome, muscular, hung & always horny. Fuck me, suck me, and I'll do the same to you. ☎ 5431.

Great Head By Oral Expert

No reciprocation necce. Your place Sonoma county. Days or weekends. ☎ 5432.

Cute Younger Seeks Sexy Older

Life before 52 is just a rehearsal says ex int television model new in US, 27, 6'1", 157#, with smooth tan skin & cute bubble buns, seeks charismatic sexy classy mature gentleman, 52-69. ☎ 5433.

Attention Black Men

GWM with smooth deep bottom seeks black men for regular sexual sessions—afternoons or evenings. Waiting your call. ☎ 5434.

Work My Tits Diddy

Looking for JD daddy. Jack me off, tie it up. Rim play & more. You: 35-40, fun, aggressive, horny, HIV-. You: 6' or taller, 35-50 yrs, HIV-, top, facial hair preferred. ☎ 5435.

Seeking Dominant Young Men

18-32 to use & degrade godlookin, tall, fit, hairy butch dad, 41. Into macho, built tough guys, especially skinheads or short punks who'll verbally abuse me & make me suck, rim, worship boots, drink piss. ☎ 5436.

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18-32 to use & degrade godlookin, tall, fit, hairy butch dad, 41. Into macho, built tough guys, especially skinheads or short punks who'll verbally abuse me & make me suck, rim, worship boots, drink piss. ☎ 5436.

Parting Glances

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

A1 Oral Service—Delivered
S/F, GWM, HIV-, handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 5437.

Hot Nasty Boys Only

For long sessions of butt play, UB: 25-40, GWM/GLM, good shape, clean shave, like taking it up your hot ass. Me: 41 yo, GWM top, 5'6", 145#, good body, great tool. ☎ 5421.

Kick Back!

GWM, 5'10", 160, br/b, cln, shaven, fun, friendly, luv to suck for a long time. Sk msc, trim GWM, GAM, 18-40, couples OK. Reg service? ☎ 5421.

Bring Me Your Cock-Love Cock!

Haven't met a cock yet I didn't like. Lick to stroke, lick, suck on it. Love foreskin too-pull, nibble, chew on it. Like on going buddy for discreet xtra play weekdays. Have LTR seek extra fun & play. HIV-, 5'10", smooth, 168#, real sincere person. ☎ 5421.

Adduction Adventure

After rules are established mutually, a date is set for your abduction and "interrogation" by two handsome, fit leather tops. Twelve hour from capture to release. ☎ 5440.

Richmond N. Bay

HIV- seeking well hung top. Any race, who loves to fuck my hairy, hooded little ass, deeply. I'm 56, 5'2", stocky & hairy. Plus only 115 lbs. & very clean. I like to suck & deep throat!!! I also have other fantasies. Smirk/drk OK. Thick cocks A+. PS wkdays, weekends, are best. ☎ 5441.

Eastbay Dad Looking For Boy

Int'l Bondage/submission/training, 18-35, some experience but eagerness to learn/please A+. Me: 40's, in shape, experienced, sadistic but sane, limits respected, expanded over time. ☎ 5442.

Strip!

Ever fantasize being made to strip in front of a group of guys? Group now forming. Be 25-50, fit, masculine, creative. Call with your stats & fantasy. ☎ 5427.

Italian Guys!!!

I'm the guy who knows what the Italian man really wants. ☎ 5443.

Hung Guys Wanted!!

I'm looking for guys who are hung 9 inches or more for fun & good times. ☎ 5444.

Bi White Muscle Sks Same Black

Built, muscular, meaty, hard body dude, 6'/195, 40, seeks other str8, macho, built or meaty Black/Latino dude, 18-20, into str8-x videos and occasional nut. ☎ 5445.

Bi White Muscle Sks Same Black

Handsome, sexy prof Asian, 26, 5'11", 155#, would like to meet dressing and masculine prof GWM, 26-40, into dress socks. Reserved, classy, and business-types a plus. HIV-. ☎ 5446.

Spread 'Em, Cockslucker

No. Bay GWM, 50, big guy, wants to service uniformed cops, CHP, sheriff dep., my place, discreet, no reciprocation. Cum & fulfill a fantasy. ☎ 5447.

Facial Piercings Turn Me On

GWM, 38, 6', 150#, mustache. Men with facial piercings really turn me on. ISO men with piercings for safe, hot fun. All ages (18+), shapes, types welcome. No S/M, pain. ☎ 5449.

Hat Rim

Your hair must protrude & have lots of lip on it. Sit on my rim chair & let me eat you good. I love it!! You: 21-25, 45: Me: 40, hot, handshape, hung 7+-. HIV-, NS/N, and have pumped before. ☎ 5450.

Asian Leather Top

Seeking HIV- GWM to worship and provide oral service to this smooth leather, leather-clad, attractive top who enjoys wearing leather and tall boots. ☎ 5456.

Man W/Tee Ring Sks Foot Partner

Lifelong excitement looking at fantasizing about men's barefoot. Masculine, godlookin East Bay GWM, 5'9", 140#, tan, moderately hairy, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefoot, sage J/O. Further friendship possible. ☎ 5457.

Submissive Wanted—Gay Or Bi

Expert dominant will train & reward you. Short or long leash. Muscular, 40's, 6'1", godlookin. You're in shape. If this isn't your scene, don't bother. ☎ 5458.

Old-Fashioned Spanking Needed

GWM, 40's, needs a man's hand on my pants, under pants & bare bottom. Over the knee, pants down, corporal punishment administered by dominant, experienced man required. Discipline not S/M. Thank you, sir. ☎ 5454.

Daytime Asshole Eater

"Get your asshole eaten by a pro." ☎ 5455.

Asshole Fetishists

Hard-core rimmers sought to tongue & eat hot hole while I sit on your face or rim seat, mature & perverted only. WS A+++. ☎ 5259.

Stud Butt Eater Seeks Top

Masc, muscular, ripped & buffed bottom, 40's, wants to please toilet top only. Scat & piss scenes. Stud tops only respond. ☎ 5260.

Corporal Punishment Meted Out

To deserving individuals. Training to serve and suffer for the pleasure/entertainment of another. Only those in need of serious training and abuse apply. Subject should be in good shape, 18-38, no fantasy trips/first timers. ☎ 5261.

You've Been Bad

Now it's time to get punished! 45 yo guy spans bad boys in different positions, but you'll end up with your bars over my knee. You under 40, boyish. ☎ 5436.

Black Rubber & Leather

(Gas tanks, etc.) excites us. GWM, 32, 5'10", 150#, seeks hairy GWM w/gear, private place. We're both masculine, attractive, slim, HIV-, discrete, passionate. Not into S/M & body modifications, substance use. ☎ 5347.

Me To Down & Discipline Me!

For leather bottoms experienced leather top for bondage & serious yet consensual S/M play. Am 39, 5'11", 5'11", good looks, build, sex oriented, discreet, no drugs. ☎ 5348.

Me Down & Discipline Me!

Leather bottom seeks experienced leather top for bondage & serious yet consensual S/M play. Am 39, 5'11", 5'11", good looks, build, sex oriented, discreet, no drugs. ☎ 5349.

Dress Socks

Handsome, sexy prof Asian, 26, 5'11", 155#, would like to meet dressing and masculine prof GWM, 26-40, into dress socks. Reserved, classy, and business-types a plus. HIV-. ☎ 5447.

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Vacuum Pump Buddies Sought

By GWM, 56, 6', 165#, handsome, fit, HIV-, hung 8" with big low hangars. You: 20-35, any race, fit, handsome, hung 7+-. HIV-, NS/N, and have pumped before. ☎ 5450.

Take A Load Off

44yo godlookin GWM has rim seat available for hot GWM, 35-50. Sit down, relax and let my hungry tongue probe your dirty tunnel. Feeding scene possible. ☎ 5451.

Genital Games

Sane sadist ISO bottom for CBT. Life to industrial strength. Imaginative, hot top, 45, muscles, leather, tats. Limits expanded. Be in shape. ☎ 5452.

Scat Water Sports

GWM sees white, handsome, 22-45. Me: 5'10", mustache, short beard, HIV-. Maybe on going, friendship. No fats or fems. ☎ 5453.

gay Asian Man

Looking for other gay males to play tennis—practice together to improve game—I play SF tennis leagues. Dedicated only! ☎ 5461.

Leavitt

◀ page 47

drew Wylie, told the *Post* that the real issue was financial, not editorial. Chrysler Motors had threatened to pull its ads from the monthly for a year if the story ran, he asserted. Chrysler—which has a two-page ad in the April issue—denies any direct involvement.

Why would Chrysler, in particular, be concerned about the story? Leavitt speculates that the car company might be offended at his rather sexual references to a Jeep; Jeep is owned by Chrysler.

"*Esquire* denies Wylie's allegations that Chrysler stepped in and threw it out," says Romesburg. "But there have been other reports that it wasn't killed by Chrysler's complaints as much as *Esquire*'s fear that Chrysler would complain, and that it was self-censorship, a pre-emptive strike."

The exact reason isn't terribly important to Leavitt, however.

"It's entirely possible it was advertiser pressure. Or it's possible it was a pre-emptive action because of fear of advertiser pressure. Or it's also possible it was entirely Kosner's decision," says Leavitt. "My feeling as a writer is that in any of those scenarios, it's outrageous and indefensible. This is not a situation where a publication rejects a story based on its content."

This is a situation where they buy a story and literally at the eleventh hour withdraw it.

Killing "The Term Paper Artist" has ultimately proven more troublesome for *Esquire* than refusing it last summer would have been. Aside from losing money and an editor, the monthly has been dragged through the press looking distinctly unenlightened.

"Gay articles in *Esquire* are few and far between," says Alan Klein, communications director for GLAAD. "*Esquire* has been a bastion of straight white maleness, and it seems that they were heading in the right direction by printing a piece of David Leavitt's. Unfortunately, it got killed. I hope this is not an indication of them retreating from printing a diverse array of pieces."

Kosner thinks the gay angle of the story has been overplayed, noting that the magazine has recently received kudos from GLAAD for other gay-related coverage.

"*Esquire*'s relationship with the gay readership is fine," he says. "I think open-minded people will look at this and say, 'Well, the guy changed his mind.' Or, 'The guy doesn't know what the hell he's doing.' But I don't think a lot of people are going to conclude that homophobia was the motivating principle of this thing." ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

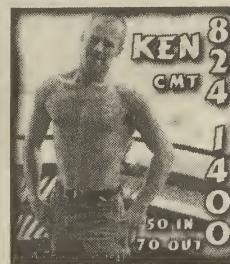
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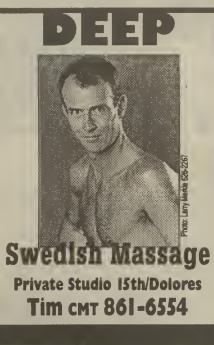
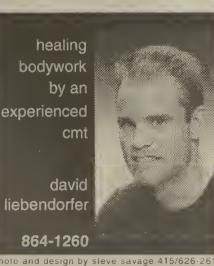
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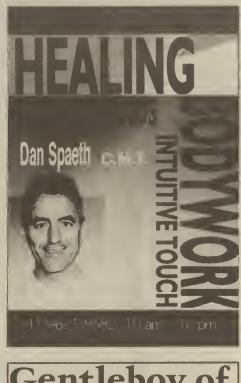
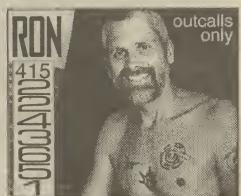
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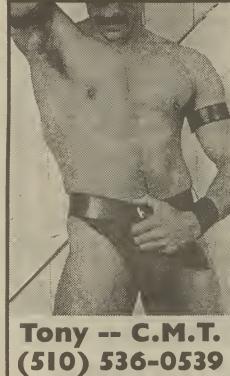
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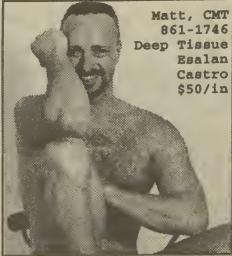
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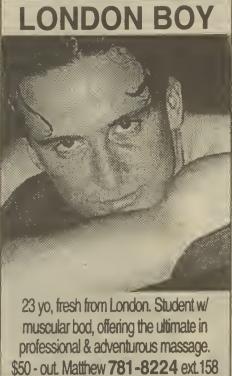
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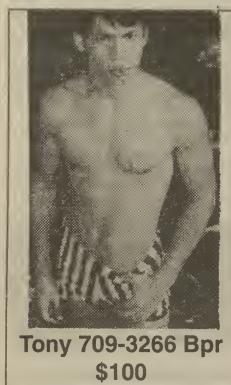


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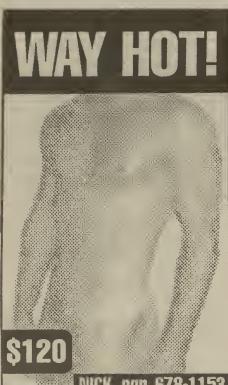
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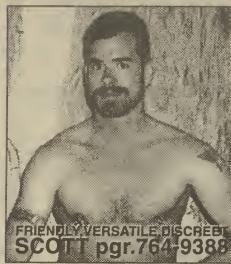
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Very handsome, hazel eyes, great body
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Gdkg Topman - Your Fantasy
My Talent-JACK•(415) 270-4496

FF Top Boy W/SM Hands 4 Fantasy & Relief* French/Aztec 26 5'7" Slim \$100 Out/Hotel• Morlex 522-2315

6'3", 200, 30 y/o Goatee, Br/Bl
HOT JR. EXEC.!!
Hug & Vers. 24hrs 921-8607

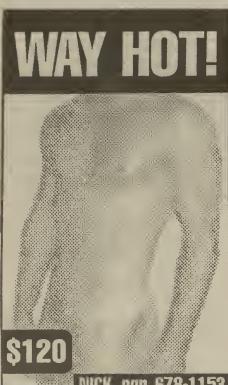
Cute guy 5'5", 135#, nice chest & arms, Small cum tight smooth bottom, Hung. Older men welcome \$50 Donald 351-2024

23yo, 5'8", 145#, 29w, 39c, smooth, cut
ASIAN GO-GO BOY
Strip Show/True Fantasies, All Bay Hiu p(415) 313-9537, \$100 Out, Top

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Chisled chest, defined abs, broad Shoulders. Sexy, handsome, hung, top. \$120 In/\$140 Out, 679-8487 vnp/pgr

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Lower day time rates!
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25yo x-dlkg w/a fat 9 1/2" tool Smith Well defined body Call 280-2736

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Both 23, well hung, short hair, cln cut 1 Blond/Bl, 5'10", Nice and Thick 1Br/Br, 6'; Beautiful Ass 280-7851

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Masculine clean cut & yes versatile French/Italian, dk thick hair, full Lips very hot! Hung & tight Out Only Brady 201-1319

Tired of the rest now try me sexy Asian Boy smooth trim body 582-2889

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Call: 775-4771 24 Hours

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Good looking Good time & massage 24 Hours, \$120 an hour pg 313-1552

ROUGH BLK TRADE 8"

Wants2 force U2 your knees. To use my thick blk manhood 30yo attract, Muscle, 5'8" C41 W29 A16 Th24 No Drug/Rushjob Verbi/Domination OK Safe 60 & up Out Robert 829-7595

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Sexy, Smooth Boy Loves To Please, Tight Athletic Body 5'7", 135 lbs, 24 yr Ph 558-9351

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masculine
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All Levels of Experience.

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White Ring A Bell Bucks

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2 Rockhard globes of Butt! Hungry.

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Long blond hair, killer blue eyes. Dig on it, dude! 560-828-100 Out

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Eager and energetic, slender and Smart. Sebastian 440-3983

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23 years-6'-165lbs-lean & muscled Dama 282-5885

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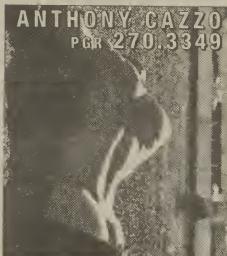
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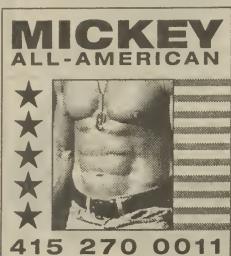


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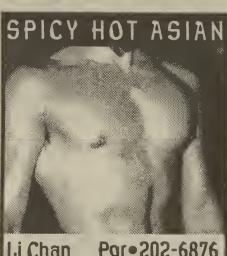
SEXY GUY
Hung 9" and the Hottest

775-4771 24 Hrs



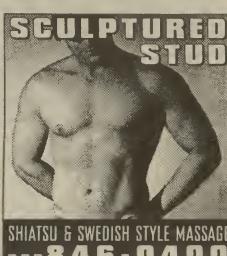
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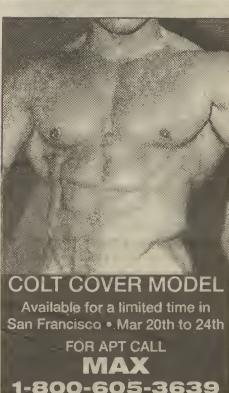
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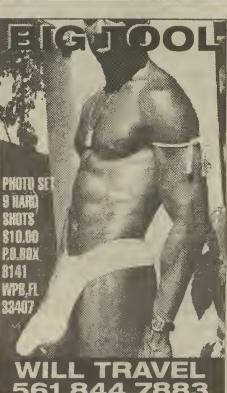
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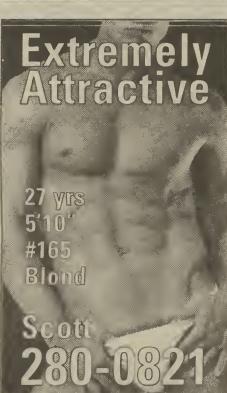
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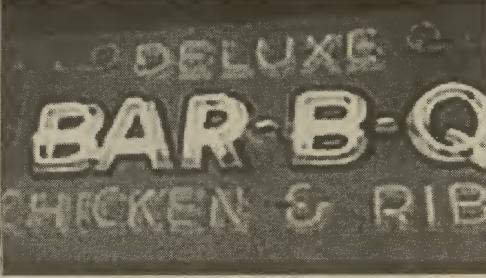
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Smooth Tight Touch

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